OUTCOME EVALUATION
SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted to:

Director David A. Gaspar and
ADJC Leadership Team

ADJC Research and Development
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
August 27, 2002

Research and Development	**National Council on Crime and Delinquency**
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The Research and Development Section would like to thank the following individuals for their cooperation and participation during the course of this project. This report would not have been possible without their generous cooperation.	
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On average, 24% of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) releases returned to custody within one year of their release, 37% returned within two years, and 43.1% returned within three years. The averages were based on five, four, and three ADJC release cohorts, respectively, which together comprised as many as 5,175 juvenile offenders. Many of these juvenile offenders constitute Arizona's most troubled youth.

Table 1: ADJC Composite Recidivism Rates

	12 Months (n=5,175)	**24 Months (n=4,230)**	**36 Months (n=3,190)**
Return to Custody	**24%** ADC: 5.5% Recommit:.6 Parole Rev:17.9%	**37%** ADC: 13.7% Recommit:1.2% Parole Rev:22.1%	**43.1%** ADC: 21.9% Recommit:.1.4% Parole Rev:19.8%

Calendar Year (CY) 2000 releases posted an increase (7.4%) in their *one-year* return-to-custody rate over the rate posted by the 1999 releases. The 1999 releases posted an increase (3.3%) in their *two-year* return to custody rate over the rate posted by the 1998 releases. Finally, the 1998 releases posted an increase (2.1%) in their *three-year* return to custody rate over the rate posted by the 1997 releases. All three of the increases were fueled by increases (7.8%, 4%, and 3.8%, respectively) in parole revocations, which probably resulted in large part from ADJC's efforts to hold juveniles accountable and return them to secure custody whenever they violated their parole conditions or committed new offenses. Concurrent with these increases were (a) decreases in the proportion of ADJC releases recommitted[12] to ADJC for new offenses, and (b) decreases in the proportion of ADJC releases sentenced to Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC). [3] These concurrent decreases in return-to-custody rates are good news for ADJC, since they demonstrate that the overall increase in return-to-custody rates resulted from ADJC-initiated—rather than juvenile or criminal court-initiated—actions. Indeed, the ADJC's commitment to hold juveniles on parole accountable for their actions is consistent with the ADJC's public safety mission.

Comparisons of state return-to-custody rates show that Arizona's rates compare very favorably to those of most other states using the same definition of recidivism. These favorable results, in fact, may reflect the relative effectiveness of the programs and services employed with juvenile offenders in Arizona compared with those employed in other states. However, this comparison has a number of limitations that require interpretations to be made with considerable caution. First, drawing conclusions on differential effectiveness of programming and services is limited by the fact that information on the relative types, intensity, and duration of the interventions from state to state is not readily available. In addition, using the return-to-custody definition of recidivism may underestimate the actual rates of subsequent delinquent or criminal behavior to unknown and variable degrees from state to state. This underestimation is due, in part, to the number of delinquent or criminal actions that remain unreported or cannot be attributed to a particular offender. Finally, differences in return-to-custody rates may result from differences in the characteristics of the juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of different state agencies. For all of these reasons, conclusions from state-to-state comparisons must be reached with considerable caution.

Director Gaspar and the ADJC Leadership Team expressed a keen interest in converting ADJC return-to-custody rates into management information that would be useful at the institutional or housing-unit level. When this interest was discussed with the ADJC Superintendents, they suggested that a constructive approach be taken. That constructive approach is reflected in a discussion of *success rates*, which are equal to 100% minus the respective return-to-custody rates. Indeed, what sets this report apart from all other ADJC Outcome Evaluation Reports and from other recidivism analyses we have seen is the active participation of ADJC secure school and parole office staff in the analysis of success rates. Their participation is a bold step and it ensures that their experience and ideas are included in the scope of this research. In addition, their participation helps invigorate the notion of recidivism by involving institutional and line staff in this important topic. Results from the last Outcome Evaluation Report were posted in the ADJC Central Office and throughout all of the ADJC secure schools and parole offices. Numerous discussions were held with both secure school and parole office staff relative to possible explanations for the observed variations in success rates. Many of the reasons they articulated were measured and

analyzed and are discussed in this report. Involvement of ADJC staff in the analysis of success rates has ensured that recidivism becomes a relevant ADJC management and staff issue.

Results obtained from the analysis of success rates by housing unit and parole office were constrained by data availability. In addition, it was reported that quite a few juveniles were moved among housing units in 2000, possibly disrupting programmatic and staff relationships. Nevertheless, some provocative findings were revealed by this endeavor. First, the continued success of the Black Canyon School releases suggests that their releases tend to have more success than do releases from other facilities. Second, staff characteristics seem to have less to do with success rates than do juvenile characteristics. In fact, we found strong statistically significant correlation coefficients between such variables as substance abuse or peer relationships and success. We suspect a relationship exists between staff characteristics and success rates. The lack of a statistical relationship between staff characteristics and success rates is probably due to the effects of unmeasured intervening factors. Efforts to find appropriate measures of the staff characteristic construct will continue. In addition, future research efforts will address program integrity issues and will try to disentangle the effects of programming from staffing upon success rates.

Somewhat surprising results were obtained when we analyzed the factors identified by ADJC parole office staff in light of success rates. While a great many of our juvenile parolees were from single-parent or parent/step-parent families, we found a parole office that had a relatively high proportion of cases involving two-natural-parent households with relatively a low success rate. An examination of three other factors identified by ADJC parole office staff—*Poverty, Services Provided, and Race/Ethnicity*—also produced counter-intuitive results. Understanding why these counter-intuitive results were obtained is difficult; perhaps the measures we used were unreliable, and/or the analytical technique we used lacked sufficient power to uncover the true relationships. The dual function of parole (protecting public safety while encouraging juvenile success) also might be an important factor in interrupting the expected direction of the correlation coefficients. Efforts to find appropriate measures and/or statistics will continue in this area as well.

Indeed, future analyses of success rates by housing unit and/or parole office will benefit from accurate, reliable data. ADJC has initiated several efforts recently to collect more management-level data. It is recommended that Director Gaspar and the Leadership Team consider collecting ADJC data by housing unit and parole office. If approved, this initiative may greatly benefit efforts to better understand and quantify the factors explaining the observed variations in success rates.

Among the five ADJC secure schools, Encanto releases had the lowest success rates in 1998, 1999, and 2000. As a result, Director Gaspar and the Leadership Team expressed an interest in knowing more about this group of releases. The juveniles assigned to Encanto during those years had both chronic delinquency problems and serious mental health conditions. Many had multiple conditions, including attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), bipolar disorder, and substance abuse. Most Encanto releases spent a considerable amount of time within an ADJC secure facility and on parole. In fact, half of them (50%) spent six or more months in Encanto, and 78% spent up to six months in another ADJC facility before they were placed in Encanto. We were unable to locate the *Psychology Discharge Summaries* prepared by Encanto staff in the master or field files or Parole Officer notes for the Encanto releases in 2000. It is unclear to what extent this situation contributed to the higher Encanto recidivism rates. ADJC secure care, behavioral/medical and parole office staff face a very serious challenge in dealing with this difficult population in the future.

A section of this report describes initial steps in the upcoming validation of the risk assessment instrument currently in use by ADJC. Results indicate that alternate definitions of *recidivism* can produce substantially different prevalence rates (i.e., proportion of the sample with at least one occurrence of a recidivism measure) and incidence rates (i.e., the average number of incidents of a recidivism measure) for the release sample. The next step in this revalidation research will be to identify the best combination(s) of recidivism measures. This will lead to the development of an ADJC risk assessment instrument that can maximize the capacity to discriminate between subgroups that have significantly different recidivism rates.

This is the sixth in a series of annual outcome evaluation reports on juvenile offenders committed to ADJC. The reports are designed to comply with a budgetary requirement enacted in 1996 that established broad parameters for ADJC outcomes, including short-term (12 months) and long-term (24 and 36 months) changes in the frequency and severity of delinquent behavior. This report was prepared as a joint effort of the Research and Development (R/D) Section of the ADJC and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). We cooperated in producing the *Fifth Annual Outcome Evaluation Report*, which was completed in January 2002. NCCD produced four annual outcome evaluation reports prior to our cooperative effort. This report represents a continuation of their pioneering efforts. Two changes were initiated to the Outcome Evaluation Report series with this report. First, outcome evaluation results are being issued six months earlier than before. Second, while each annual report will retain certain standard sections, a unique special-focus topic will be included in each one. The low success rate of the Encanto facility was the special-focus topic selected by Director Gaspar and the Leadership Team for this report.

The report is organized into the following sections:

I. Characteristics of the 2000, or latest, release cohort to be studied and comparisons of the 12-, 24-, and 36-month return-to-custody rates for the respective release cohorts
II. Specific success and return-to-custody rates of the ADJC institutions, housing units, and parole offices
III. Analysis of the juveniles assigned to the Encanto mental health unit
IV. A comparison of ADJC return-to-custody rates with those of comparable states
V. Outcome measures of an ADJC release sample of juveniles for risk assessment revalidation
VI. Conclusions

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1. ADJC GENERAL RETURN-TO-CUSTODY RATES

A. 2000 RELEASE COHORT

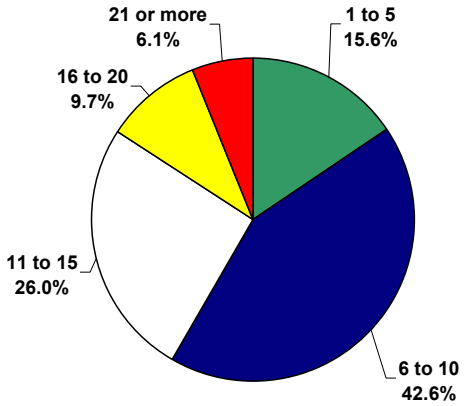
The 2000 release cohort was comparable to the four previous release cohorts. However, a few demographic, delinquency history, need, and institutional progress differences were found. This section analyzes the demographic, delinquency history, need, and institutional progress similarities and differences between the 2000 and four previous release cohorts.

The demographic character of the 2000 release cohort differed slightly from those of the four previous cohorts**.** Indeed, the 2000 release cohort continued the trends of older releases and a greater number of female releases than earlier cohorts. The vast majority of the 2000 releases were male (86.8%), while females accounted for just 13.2% of releases that year. This was the second consecutive year in which 13.2% of the releases were female, a proportion somewhat higher than that observed for the 1996 through 1998 release cohorts. Maricopa County had a plurality (43.8%) of the 2000 ADJC releases, while Pima County contributed about one-quarter (25.7%). The remaining 13 Arizona counties accounted for 30.5%, an increase (2%) over the 1999 cohort. The single largest racial/ethnic category of releases was Hispanic (43.2%), followed by Caucasian (37.6%), African American (9%), Native American (5.9%), Mexican National (3.6%), and other (0.7%). The ranking of racial/ethnic groups in the 2000 release cohort was very similar to that of the four previous ADJC release cohorts. Minority juveniles represented 65.2% of all secure commitments and 62.4% of all secure releases during 2000. The proportion of Caucasian releases (37.6%) slightly exceeded commitments (34.8%), while the proportion of Hispanic releases (43.2%) were slightly less than their commitments (46%). The other racial categories had very similar commitment and release proportions.

Table 2: Age at Release by Year of Release					
	1996	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**
9-13	2.3%	1.3%	1.7%	1.4%	1.4%
14	10.1%	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	5.1%
15	21.1%	18.1%	18.3%	16.1%	16%
16	27.8%	29.1%	24.8%	25.8%	26.1%
17	37.2%	42.7%	48.6%	49.8%	34.7%
18	1.6%	2.3%	.1%	.3%	16.7%[4]
Total	100% (n=827)	100% (n=1,095)	100% (n=1,268)	100% (n=1,040)	100% (n=945)
Average	15.9	16.1	16.1	16.2	16.4
Median	16	16	16	17	17

As illustrated in Table 2, the average age of ADJC releases increased. Indeed, the proportion of 18-year-olds was considerably higher in 2000 than previously and may indicate an intent to keep delinquent juveniles in ADJC as long as possible.[5]

Figure 1: 2000 Release Cohort Number of Referrals

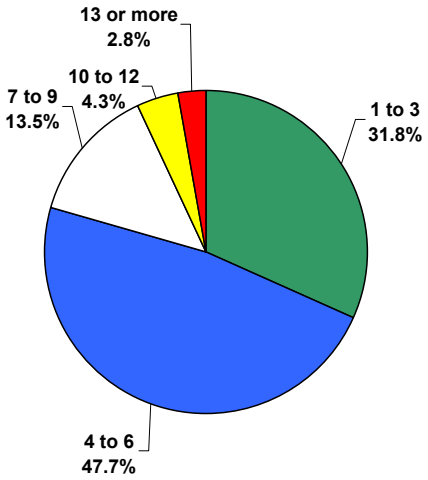


The delinquency history of the 2000 release cohort differed slightly from those of the four previous cohorts. The 2000 releases had a slightly different number of referrals and adjudications, which will be discussed below. Also, the 2000 releases continued the trends of

juveniles serving more time in secure care and a growing proportion of drug and public order offenders among the releases.

The juveniles that comprised the 2000 release cohort had been in trouble many times before. Indeed, 84.4% had six or more referrals, and 68.2% had four or more adjudications. Compared to the four previous ADJC release cohorts, an increase (5.6%) was noted in the proportion of juveniles with 6 to 10 prior referrals (see Figure 1), and a decrease occurred in all other categories. The proportion of juveniles with one to three (+1.4%) or four to six (+1.3%) adjudications increased over the previous four release cohorts (see Figure 2), while the proportion of juveniles in the other three categories either remained the same or decreased.

Figure 2: 2000 Release Cohort Number of Adjudications

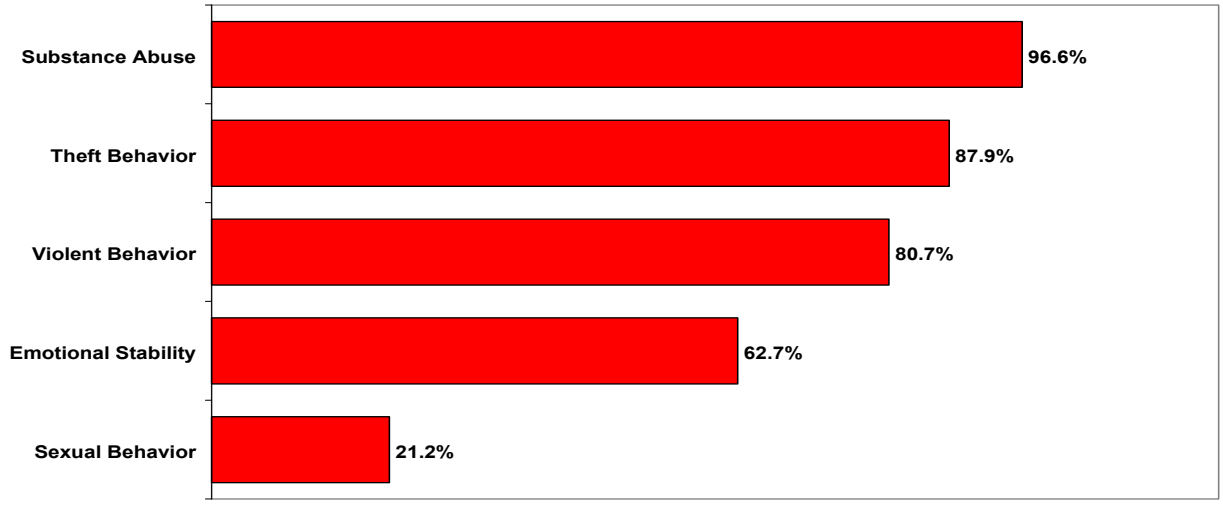


The 2000 release cohort continued the trend of juveniles serving more time in ADJC secure custody. Indeed, the proportion of juveniles serving seven to nine months increased (+7.1%), and the proportion serving three months or less decreased (-5.7%). The proportion of releases determined to be at high risk decreased for the third consecutive year, while the proportion of medium- and low-risk releases increased in 2000. The noted decreases in high risk and increases in medium and low risk releases occurred as a result of the trend for fewer high risk and more medium and low risk commitments to ADJC.

Table 3: ADJC Release Cohorts by Committing Offense Type					
	1996	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**
Property Offenses	46.2%	52%	51.3%	47%	49.4%
Crimes Against Persons	18.6%	19.6%	20.2%	20.3%	18.2%
Drug Offenses	11.2%	15.2%	13.6%	16.1%	15.7%
Public Order Offenses	7%	8.3%	9.3%	11.1%	10.7%
Weapons Offenses	2.8%	1.9%	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%
Other	1.5 %	2.1%	2.5%	2.8%	3.1%
Missing	12.7%	0.9%	.4%	0	0.2%
Total	100% (n=827)	100% (n=1,093)	100% (n=1,268)	100% (n=1,040)	100% (n=945)

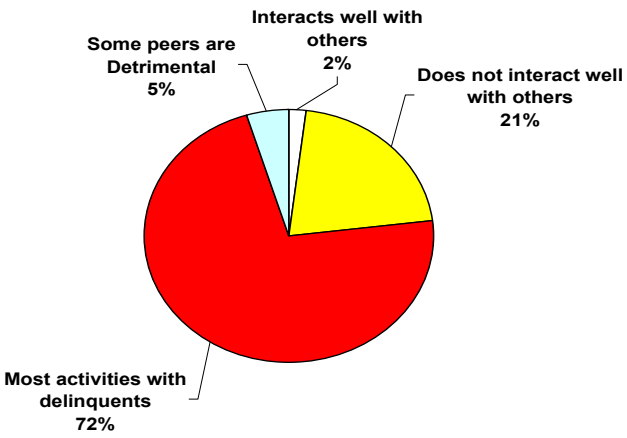
Almost half (49.4%) of the 2000 releases were placed in ADJC originally for Property Offenses, with Crimes Against Persons (18.2%) the second largest category. Drug offenders (15.7%) and Public Order offenders (10.7%) also represented a large proportion of 2000 releases. Table 3 reveals the relative stability in committing offenses across the five ADJC release cohorts, and it also shows an interesting and somewhat steady increase in Drug and Public Order offenders among ADJC releases.

Figure 3: ADJC Treatment Service Factors: 2000 Release Cohort



The treatment needs of the 2000 release cohort were comparable to those of the four previous release cohorts. Among the *ADJC Treatment Service Factors,* substance abuse remained the most common problem for the 2000 release cohort. In fact, 96.6% of the 2000 releases had substance abuse problems. Virtually no variation was found in the proportion of releases with substance abuse problems across the five release cohorts. Theft behavior addresses the property offense history of the juvenile, and, as can be seen from Figure 3, more than 87% of the releases had property offense histories. Fully 80.7% had violent behavior issues. It is important to observe that almost two-thirds (62.7%) of the 2000 releases also had emotional stability problems. Members of the 2000 cohort had other significant problems as well. Almost all of them (98.2%) had delinquent friends or were determined to have had trouble relating to others (see Figure 4). More than two-thirds (66.8%) came from homes that lacked cooperation, were characterized by marital discord, or experienced domestic violence. Finally, more than one-third (37.9%) had backgrounds of alleged or substantiated physical or sexual abuse.

Figure 4: Peer Relationships for 1999 Release Cohort



The institutional progress of the 2000 release cohort was quite similar to that of the 1999 release cohort[6]. All ADJC juveniles progress through a level system, and the highest level a juvenile is required to achieve while in an ADJC secure facility depends upon his/her

committing offense and risk classification. Each of the five levels constitutes a progressive step with established behavioral expectations. The levels are Orientation, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior. Competency must be demonstrated at each level before the juvenile can move to the next higher level. Juveniles must demonstrate achievement not only in daily behavior but also in treatment progress. As shown in Figure 5, the vast majority (83.7%) were at the Junior level upon their release, and 15% were at the Sophomore level. Few (0.2%) of the 2000 releases had progressed to the Senior level prior to their release from ADJC secure custody.

B. 12-MONTH RETURN TO CUSTODY COMPARISON

Table 4:

	1996 **(n=827)**	**1997** **(n=1,095)**	**1998** **(n=1,268)**	**1999** **(n=1,040)**	**2000** **(n= 945)**
12 Months	**20.6%** ADC: 5.4% Recommit:1% Parole Rev:14.3%	**24.3%** ADC: 6.2% Recommit:1.2% Parole Rev:16.9%	**26.6%** ADC: 5.4% Recommit:.8% Parole Rev:20.4%	**20.1%** ADC: 5.3% Recommit:0% Parole Rev:14.7%	**27.5%** ADC: 5% Recommit:0% Parole Rev:22.5%'

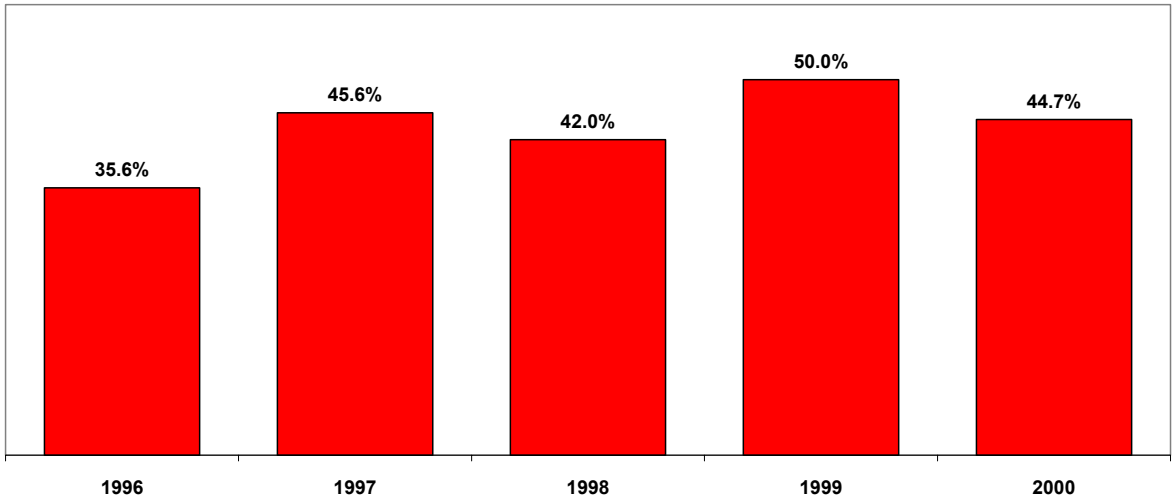
This section analyzes one-year return-to-custody rates for the 5,175 juveniles released from ADJC secure care from 1996 through 2000. The analysis is organized by year of release, and the follow-up period of 12 months was measured from the actual date of each juvenile's release.

The 2000 release cohort posted an increase (7.4%) from the 1999 release cohort in the proportion of juveniles who returned to custody within one year. In fact, the 2000 release cohort had the highest one-year return-to-custody rate (27.5%) of the five release cohorts studied. As shown in Table 4, this increase was fueled by an increase (7.8%) in the proportion of parole revocations. In response to a request from several Arizona juvenile court judges to hold juvenile delinquents accountable for their actions, ADJC monitored juveniles on parole status more carefully in 2000. In fact, in December 1999, the Department established procedure 4301.04, *Parole Violator Matrix* (see Appendix), which addressed the identification of potential parole violators and the appropriate consequences for parole

violators. The increase in parole revocations among the 2000 release cohort and, in turn, the overall ADJC recidivism rate, probably resulted, in large part, from the implementation of this procedure.

A relatively small proportion (5%) of the 2000 releases were sentenced to ADC. While conviction for Crimes Against Persons and Property Offenses were the two primary reasons ADJC releases were sentenced to ADC, decreases were noted (see Figure 6) in the proportion of commitments for Property Offenses over the five years studied. Meanwhile, an increase occurred in the 2000 releases involving the proportion of ADJC releases sentenced to ADC for Crimes Against Persons.

Figure 5: Proportion of ADC Commitments That Were Probation Violators: By Year of ADJC Release



The proportion of ADJC releases sentenced to ADC within one year of release after a probation violation decreased. As displayed in Figure 5, 44.7% of the 2000 releases sentenced to ADC within one year of their ADJC release first failed adult probation. Tracking the number of ADJC releases that go to ADC after probation violation provides important feedback on the operation of a key dimension of Arizona's justice system, i.e., the handling of violent and chronic young offenders by their placement on adult probation. In cooperation with Dr. Nancy Rodriguez of the Administration of Justice Department of Arizona State University – West, a special study has been initiated on this subject to better understand the efficacy of placing young offenders on adult probation.

C. 24-MONTH RETURN TO CUSTODY COMPARISON

Table 5: ADJC Recidivism Rates by Year of Release				
	1996 (n=827)	**1997 (n=1,095)**	**1998 (n=1,268)**	**1999 (n=1,040)**
24 Months	**34.8%** ADC: 16.3% Recommit:1.3% Parole Rev:17.1%	**38.3%** ADC: 16.1% Recommit:1.7% Parole Rev:20.5%	**35.5%** ADC: 11.4% Recommit:1% Parole Rev:22.8%	**38.8%** ADC: 12% Recommit:0% Parole Rev:26.8%

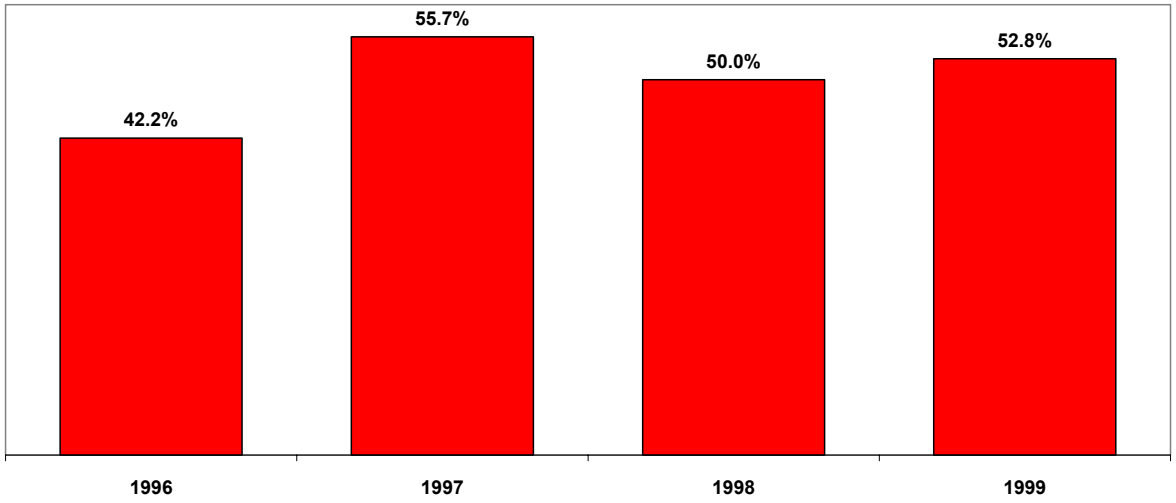
This section analyzes two-year return-to-custody rates for the 4,230 juveniles released from ADJC secure care from 1996 through 1999. The analysis is organized by year of release, and the follow-up period of 24 months was measured from the actual date of each juvenile's release.

The 1999 release cohort posted an increase (3.3%) from the 1998 release cohort in the proportion of juveniles who returned to custody within two years. As shown in Table 5, this increase was driven by an increase (4%) in the proportion of parole revocations.

Slightly more that one in ten (12%) of the 1999 releases were sentenced to ADC within two years of release. Fully 80.8% of the 1999 ADJC releases sentenced to ADC within two years of release were sentenced for Property Offenses or Crimes Against Persons. Conviction for Drug Offenses was the third most prevalent reason for an ADC sentence. The proportion of offenders convicted for Crimes Against Persons has increased, while the proportion of offenders convicted for Property Offenses has decreased.

More than one-half (52.8%) of the juveniles released from ADJC in 1999 and sentenced to ADC within two years of their release were sentenced to ADC on probation violations. Between 1996 and 1999, an increase (10.6%) was noted in the proportion of ADJC releases who were sentenced to ADC as probation violators (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Proportion of ADC Commitments That Were Probation Violators: By Year of ADJC Release (24 Month Follow-Up)



D. 36 MONTH RETURN TO CUSTODY COMPARISON

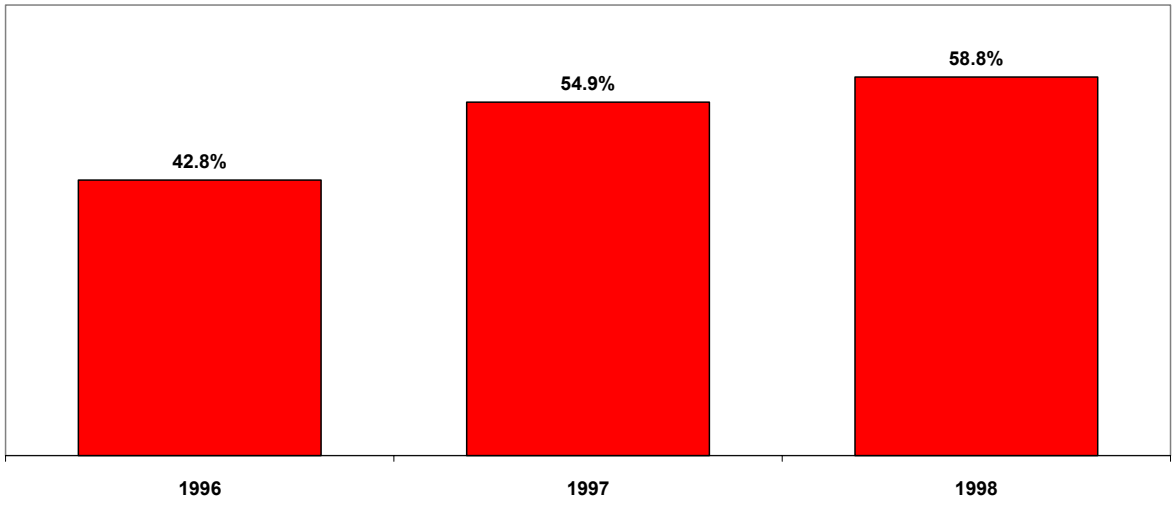
Table 6: ADJC Recidivism Rates by Year of Release			
	1996 (n=827)	**1997** (n=1,095)	**1998** (n=1,268)
36 Months	**41.7%** ADC: 23.5% Recommit:1.3% Parole Rev:16.9%	**42.5%** ADC: 22.3% Recommit:1.6% Parole Rev:18.7%	**44.6%** ADC:20.7% Recommit:1.4% Parole Rev:22.5%

This section analyzes three-year return-to-custody rates for the 3,190 juvenile released from ADJC secure care from 1996 through 1998. The analysis is organized by year of release, and the follow-up period of 36 months was measured from the actual date of each juvenile's release.

The 1998 release cohort showed an increase (2.1%) over the 1997 release cohort in the proportion of juveniles who returned to custody within three years. As shown in Table 6, this increase resulted from an increase in the number of juveniles returned to ADJC for parole revocations.

Less than one-quarter (20.7%) of the 1998 releases were sentenced to ADC within three years of their release from ADJC. Fully 79% of the 1998 releases sentenced to ADC within three years of release were sentenced for Property Offenses or Crimes Against Persons. Conviction for Drug Offenses was the third most prevalent reason for a prison sentence. The proportion of offenders convicted for Weapons and Other offenses has increased, the proportion convicted for Property and Drugs has remained relatively constant, and the proportion convicted for Crimes Against Persons and Public Order has decreased.

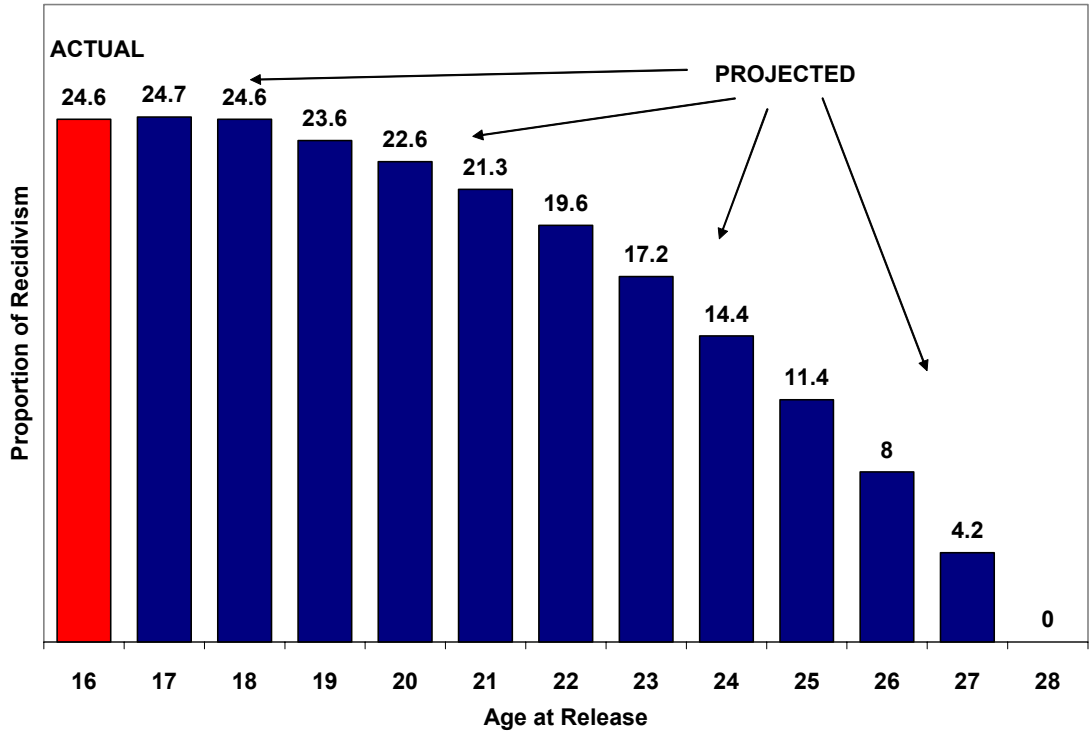
Figure 7: Proportion of ADC Commitments That Were Probation Violators: By Year of ADJC Release



More than half (58.8%) of the juveniles released from ADJC in 1998 and sentenced to ADC within three years of their release were sentenced to ADC on probation violations. Between 1996 and 1998, an increase (16%) was noted in the proportion of ADJC releases who were sentenced to ADC as probation violators (see Figure 7).

RETURN TO CUSTODY WITHIN 12 MONTHS: BY AGE AT RELEASE

Figure :8



Proportion of Recidivism by Age= -43.99 + 5.66(*Age*) – 0.17 (*Age*^{2}) = 0.66 (*Peer Relationship*)
R^2 = .98, n=4,230
t values: constant = -2.63; *Age*=2.56; *Age*^{2}=-2.45; *Peer Relationships*=10.9

In general terms, as age at release increases, recidivism decreases[7]. Indeed, ADJC releases who were 16 years old (24.6%) had a higher recidivism rate than a hypothetical cohort of ADJC releases that were 26 years old (8%). This finding is helpful to those wishing to compare the recidivism rates of ADJC to those of ADC. In fact, the average age of ADJC releases was 16 while the average age of ADC releases was 26.

A very strong relationship exists between age and recidivism. The relationship was identified using regression analysis, and an examination of 4,230 ADJC juveniles who were tracked for 12 months after their release from secure custody. The identified regression equation

accounted for 98% of the variation in the *Proportion Of Recidivism By Age*. The regression analysis yielded an equation that permits projections of what recidivism would be if ADJC kept offenders until they were 28 years old (see Figure 8). The regression analysis also revealed that the rate of increase in the *Proportion of Recidivism by Age* increased up to age 16.14 and then it decreased at age 17. Moreover, the rate of change in the *Proportion Of Recidivism By Age* changed from a positive to negative value at age 17.

Juveniles with poor peer relationships had higher recidividism rates. In fact, the relationship between age at release and recidivism was enhanced by the addition of the variable of *Peer Relationships*. *Peer Relationships* is one of the twenty need factors assessed during the ADJC Reception and Classification (RAC) process, and for statistical purposes, was measured as the number of cases with poor *Peer Relationships*. Numerous other independent variables were considered, and *Peer Relationships* was included in the regression analysis because it maximized the variance explained in the *Proportion Of Recidivism By Age*.

Table 7: ADJC Composite Recidivism Rates

	12 Months (n=5,175)	**24 Months** (n=4,230)	**36 Months** (n=3,190)
Return to Custody	**24%** ADC: 5.5% Recommit:.6 Parole Rev:17.9%	**37%** ADC: 13.7% Recommit:1.2% Parole Rev:22.1%	**43.1%** ADC: 21.9% Recommit:.1.4% Parole Rev:19.8%

On average, 24% of the ADJC releases returned to custody within one year of their release, 37% returned within two years, and 43.1% returned within three years. Conversely, 76% of ADJC releases were successful in *not returning* to custody within one year of their release, 63% were successful in *not returning* within two years, and 56.9% were successful in *not returning* within three years. These success rates are significant in light of the history of the

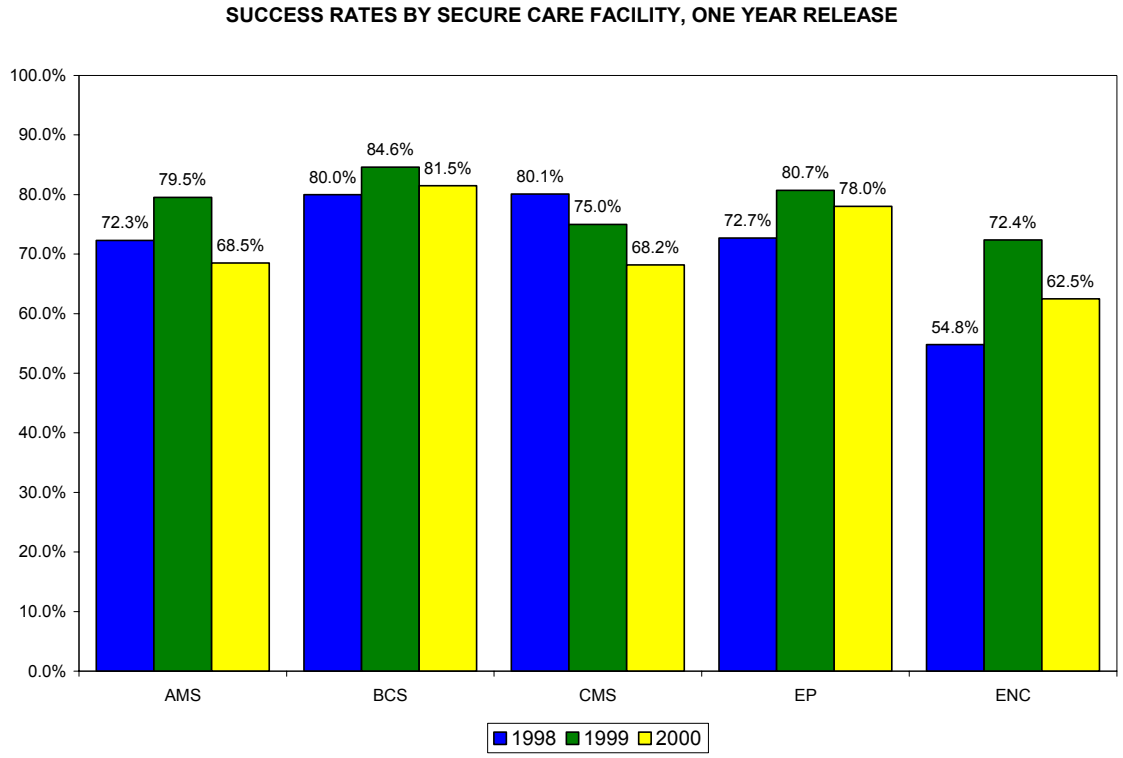
juveniles released and the close scrutiny to which they are subjected while on parole. As noted previously, juveniles committed to ADJC have been in trouble many times before. Among the 2000 ADJC releases, 84.4% had six or more referrals, and 68.2% had four or more adjudications. Many ADJC releases have cycled through the Arizona juvenile justice system and have failed less restrictive consequences, such as probation or intensive probation[8]. Given their past, it is likely that future juvenile/criminal sanctions for ADJC releases will include some form of secure custody. Thus, return to custody is the appropriate recidivism metric for this cohort. With an average release age of 16, 36 months covers many juvenile offenders through ages 17, 18, and 19. The high proportion (56.9%) of successes after three years is significant because it includes offenders who are, perhaps, in their highest offending years. Tracking juveniles beyond 36 months is unrealistic relative to the expected duration of ADJC treatment effects. With an average length of stay of 8.7 months and the difficult, sometimes criminogenic home environments characteristic of many ADJC releases, it is truly remarkable that so many ADJC releases remain crime-free in the community. Tracking ADJC releases for 36 months is responsive to the original budgerary mandate for this project, which required that "short-term results (up to one year past release from secure care) and long-term results (at least two years past release) should be studied." Dr. Robert Barnoski of the Washington State Institute of Public Policy addressed the issue of the appropriate follow-up period required to measure recidivism accurately. He proposed that an accurate measure should capture 75% to 80% of delinquency/criminality, and he determined that "…at least 30 months must pass from release into the community to fully describe juvenile recidivism…(and)…at least 36 months must pass from release into the community to fully describe adult recidivism[9]."

2. ADJC SPECIFIC RETURN-TO-CUSTODY AND SUCCESS RATES FOR THE 2000 RELEASE COHORT

Up to this point in the report, our analysis has focused on a traditional measure of recidivism, i.e., return-to-custody. Director Gaspar and the ADJC Leadership Team expressed a keen interest in converting department return-to-custody numbers into management information that would be useful at the institutional or housing-unit level. When this initiative was discussed with the ADJC Superintendents, they suggested a constructive approach. That constructive approach is reflected in this section's discussion of *success rates*, which are equal to 100% minus the respective return-to-custody rates. The approach will acknowledge appropriately the efforts and dedication of the many ADJC staff who work with Arizona's most troubled juveniles, and it also will encourage constructive discussions regarding why some units have higher success rates than others. This section, therefore, will discuss success rates as they relate to the 2000 cohort, and the discussion will be organized by ADJC secure school, housing unit, and parole office. Analysis of the reasons for variations in institutional success rates began only recently and should be viewed as a work in progress. Such analysis to date has provided some powerful findings that relate directly to the ADJC mission of *enhancing public protection by changing delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed to the Department.* Future analyses of this type of information hold great promise in assisting ADJC management to better understand the specific unit-level factors that correlate with success rates.

A. By Secure School

Figure 9



Institutional success rates for the 2000 release cohort decreased from 1999. Figure 9 shows a decrease in success rates for Adobe Mountain (AMS), Black Canyon (BCS), Eagle Point (EP), Catalina Mountain (CMS), and Encanto (ENC). Black Canyon had the highest success rate of 81.8%. Encanto still had the lowest success rate of any ADJC facility. The next section of this report explores some of the reasons for the low success rates at Encanto. Table 8a details the success and recidivism rates by ADJC secure school.

Table 8a:

	Adobe Mountain	Black Canyon	Catalina Mountain	Eagle Point	Encanto	Total
ADC	6.3%	2.3%	3.6%	4.6%	4.2%	4.9%
Parole Violator	25.5%	16.2%	28.2%	17.4%	33.3%	22.6%
Total Recidivism	**31.5%**	**18.5%**	**31.8%**	**22.0%**	**37.5%**	**27.5%**
Discharge	51.9%	56.2%	52.7%	64.1%	41.7%	55.4%
Parole	16.6%	25.4%	15.5%	13.9%	20.8%	17.2%
Total Success	**68.5%**	**81.5%**	**68.2%**	**78.0%**	**62.5%**	**72.6%**
Grand Total	**100%** (n=397)	**100%** (n=130)	**100%** (n=110)	**100%** (n=259)	**100%** (n=48)	**100%** (n=945)

Nearly half (42%) of the 2000 cohort were released from Adobe Mountain. Black Canyon released 13.8%, Catalina Mountain released 11.6%, Eagle Point released 27.4%, and Encanto accounted for 5.1% of the total number released. AMS had the highest proportion (6.3%) of their releases sentenced to ADC and BCS had the fewest (2.3%). ENC had the highest proportion of its releases violate parole, while BCS had the fewest. In fact, ENC, AMS and CMS had a greater proportion of their releases violate parole than the proportion for the entire release cohort.

Table 8b

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION			
INSTITUTION	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**
Adobe Mountain School	519	451	452
Catalina Mountain School	158	142	149
Black Canyon School	202	167	129
Eagle Point School	88	93	213
Encanto	29	30	31
Total all Institutions	976	926	959

Table 8b shows the average daily population for the five ADJC facilities from 1998 through 2000. Large population decreases occurred at AMS, BCS, CMS while EP became fully activated. The ENC population remained relatively stable during this time.

B. By Housing Unit

Figure 10 shows success rates by individual housing unit, and the housing units are color-coded to correspond to their respective institutions. As displayed in Figure 10, three Black Canyon School housing units (Venture, Quest, and Destiny) had 100% success rates. Conclusion from the analyses of the selected reasons for housing unit success rates are discussed in the latter part of this section of the report. A statistical addendum presents the detailed results of that analysis. Meanwhile, it is encouraging to note that three ADJC housing units experienced no returns to custody within one year of their juveniles' release, and more than 75% of the ADJC housing units had success rates of 66.7% or greater.

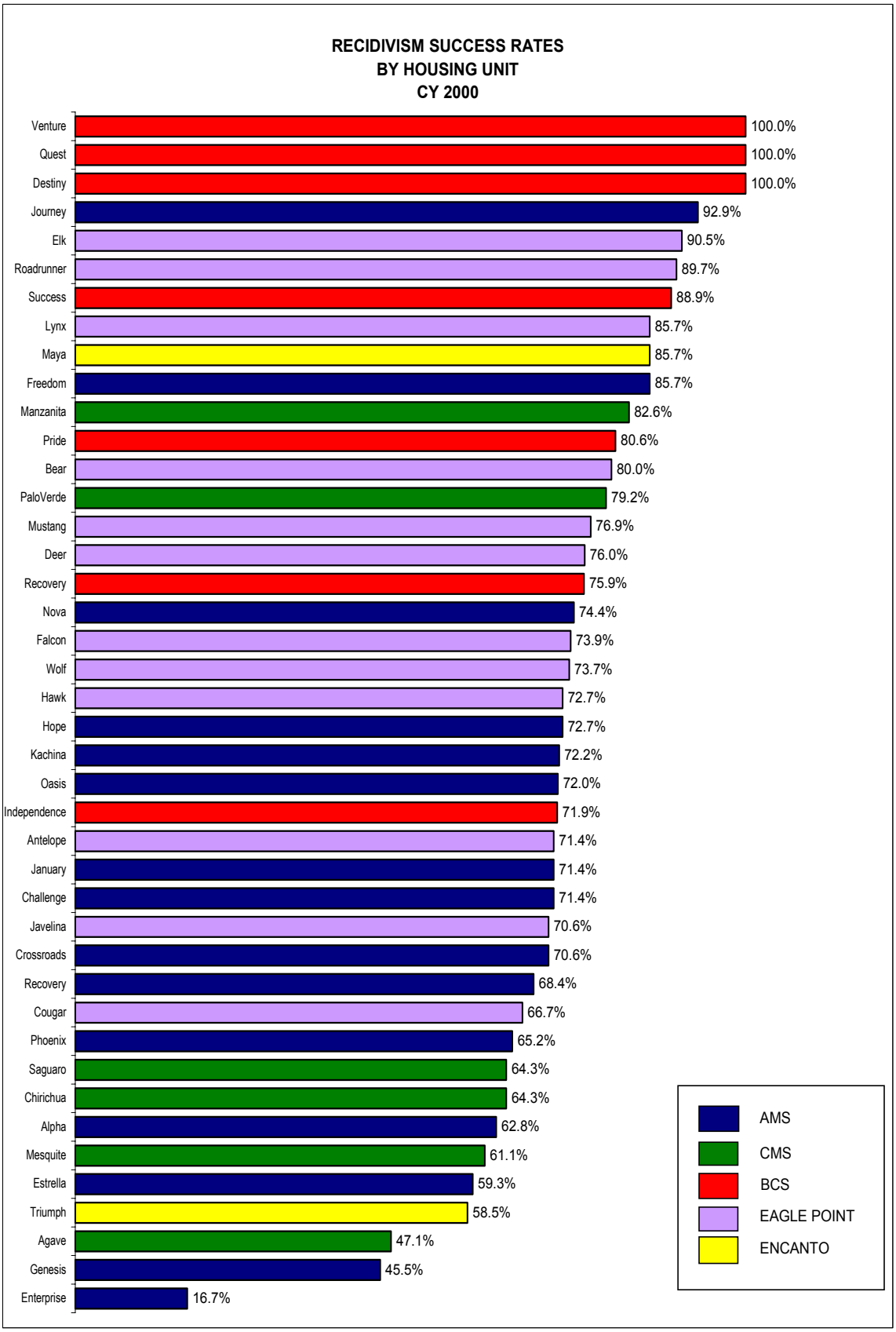

RECIDIVISM SUCCESS RATES
BY HOUSING UNIT
CY 2000
Venture 100.0%
Quest 100.0%
Destiny 100.0%
Journey 92.9%
Elk 90.5%
Roadrunner 89.7%
Success 88.9%
Lynx 85.7%
Maya 85.7%
Freedom 85.7%
Manzanita 82.6%
Pride 80.6%
Bear 80.0%
PaloVerde 79.2%
Mustang 76.9%
Deer 76.0%
Recovery 75.9%
Nova 74.4%
Falcon 73.9%
Wolf 73.7%
Hawk 72.7%
Hope 72.7%
Kachina 72.2%
Oasis 72.0%
Independence 71.9%
Antelope 71.4%
January 71.4%
Challenge 71.4%
Javelina 70.6%
Crossroads 70.6%
Recovery 68.4%
Cougar 66.7%
Phoenix 65.2%
Saguaro 64.3%
Chirichua 64.3%
Alpha 62.8%
Mesquite 61.1%
Estrella 59.3%
Triumph 58.5%
Agave 47.1%
Genesis 45.5%
Enterprise 16.7%
AMS
CMS
BCS
EAGLE POINT
ENCANTO

Table 9: Adobe Mountain School															
	Alpha	**Challenge**	**Crossroads**	**Enterprise**	**Estrella**	**Freedom**	**Genesis**	**Hope**	**January**	**Journey**	**Kachina**	**Nova**	**Oasis**	**Phoenix**	**Recovery**
ADC	9.3%	28.6%	17.6%	50.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	8.3%	7.7%	4.0%	8.7%	0.0%
Parole Violator	27.9%	0.0%	11.8%	33.3%	37.0%	14.3%	54.5%	27.3%	28.6%	0.0%	19.4%	17.9%	24.0%	26.1%	31.6%
Total Recidivism	**37.2%**	**28.6%**	**29.4%**	**83.3%**	**40.7%**	**14.3%**	**54.5%**	**27.3%**	**28.6%**	**7.1%**	**27.8%**	**25.6%**	**28.0%**	**34.8%**	**31.6%**
Success	**62.8%**	**71.4%**	**70.6%**	**16.7%**	**59.3%**	**85.7%**	**45.5%**	**72.7%**	**71.4%**	**92.9%**	**72.2%**	**74.4%**	**72.0%**	**65.2%**	**68.4%**
Grand Total	**100%** (n=43)	**100%** (n=7)	**100%** (n=17)	**100%** (n=6)	**100%** (n=27)	**100%** (n=21)	**100%** (n=22)	**100%** (n=33)	**100%** (n=42)	**100%** (n=14)	**100%** (n=36)	**100%** (n=39)	**100%** (n=25)	**100%** (n=46)	**100%** (n=19)

A total of 397 males were released from AMS secure care in 2000. Table 9 indicates the number and percentage of juveniles by housing unit and outcome type. The most successful housing unit at AMS was Journey; only 1 of its 14 releases recidivated within one year. Freedom was the second most successful AMS housing unit, with only 3 of its 21 releases recidivating within one year. Reawards are a type of parole violation. Nineteen of the AMS releases were reawarded to ADJC by an Arizona juvenile court.

Table 10: Catalina Mountain School						
	Agave	**Chiricahua**	**Saguaro**	**Manzanita**	**Mesquite**	**Palo Verde**
ADC	5.9%	7.1%	7.1%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%
Parole Revoked	47.1%	28.6%	28.6%	17.4%	33.3%	20.8%
Total Recidivism	**52.9%**	**35.7%**	**35.7%**	**17.4%**	**38.9%**	**20.8%**
Success	**47.1%**	**64.3%**	**64.3%**	**82.6%**	**61.1%**	**79.2%**
Total	**100%** (n=17)	**100%** (n=14)	**100%** (n=14)	**100%** (n=23)	**100%** (n=18)	**100%** (n=24)

The number of males released from CMS secure care in 2000 totaled 110. Table 10 indicates the number and percentage of juveniles by housing unit and outcome type. For the second year in a row, the most successful housing unit at CMS was Manzanita. Only 4 of the 23 juveniles released from Manzanita returned to custody within one year. Palo Verde was the second most successful housing unit at CMS; only 5 of its 24 releases recidivated. Eight of the CMS releases were reawarded to ADJC by an Arizona juvenile court.

Table 11: Black Canyon School							
	Destiny	**Independence**	**Pride**	**Quest**	**Recovery**	**Success**	**Venture**
ADC	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Parole Revoked	0.0%	28.1%	12.9%	0.0%	20.7%	11.1%	0.0%
Total Recidivism	**0.0%**	**28.1%**	**19.4%**	**0.0%**	**24.1%**	**11.1%**	**0.0%**
Success	**100%**	**71.9%**	**80.6%**	**100%**	**75.9%**	**88.9%**	**100%**
Total	**100%** (n=9)	**100%** (n=32)	**100%** (n=31)	**100%** (n=3)	**100%** (n=29)	**100%** (n=18)	**100%** (n=8)

A total of 137 females and males were released from BCS secure care in 2000. Table 11 indicates the number and percentage of juveniles by housing unit and outcome type. Quest, Destiny, and Venture were the most successful housing units at BCS because none of their 20

juveniles recidivated. One of the BCS releases was reawarded to ADJC by an Arizona juvenile court.

Table 12: Encanto School		
	Maya	**Triumph**
ADC	0.0%	4.9%
Parole Revoked	14.3%	36.6%
Total Recidivism	14.3%	41.5%
Success	85.7%	58.5%
Total	**100%** (n=7)	**100%** (n=41)

The number of male and female releases from Encanto secure care in 2000 totaled 48. Table 12 indicates the numbers and percentages of juveniles by housing unit and outcome type. The Maya Unit (for females) had a much higher success rate (85.7%) than the Triumph Unit had for males (58.5%), however, Triumph had over five times as many releases as the Maya Unit. The few number of releases (7) may explain the difference in success rates. One of the Encanto releases was reawarded to ADJC by an Arizona juvenile court.

Table 13: Eagle Point School												
	Antelope	**Bear**	**Cougar**	**Deer**	**Elk**	**Falcon**	**Hawk**	**Javelina**	**Lynx**	**Mustang**	**Roadrunner**	**Wolf**
ADC	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	4.0%	0.0%	8.7%	4.5%	5.9%	0.0%	7.7%	3.4%	10.5%
Parole Revoked	28.6%	20.0%	26.7%	20.0%	9.5%	17.4%	22.7%	23.5%	14.3%	15.4%	6.9%	15.8%
Total Recidivism	**28.6%**	**20.0%**	**33.3%**	**24.0%**	**9.5%**	**26.1%**	**27.3%**	**29.4%**	**14.3%**	**23.1%**	**10.3%**	**26.3%**
Success	**71.4%**	**80.0%**	**66.7%**	**76.0%**	**90.5%**	**73.9%**	**72.7%**	**70.6%**	**85.7%**	**76.9%**	**89.7%**	**73.7%**
Total	**100%** (n=7)	**100%** (n=5)	**100%** (n=30)	**100%** (n=25)	**100%** (n=21)	**100%** (n=23)	**100%** (n=22)	**100%** (n=17)	**100%** (n=35)	**100%** (n=26)	**100%** (n=29)	**100%** (n=19)

A total of 259 males were released from EPS secure care in 2000. For the second consecutive year, the highest success rate at EPS was posted by the Elk Unit (90.5%). Roadrunner had an impressive 89.7% success rate, followed by Lynx with a success rate of 85.7%. Twelve of the EPS releases were reawarded to ADJC by an Arizona juvenile court.

The Secure Schools Management Team and the Superintendents were consulted with respect to factors that might explain observed variations in success rates by housing unit. They identified four main factors that they felt contributed to the observed variations: *Characteristics of Housing Units*, *Juvenile Length of Stay*, *Juvenile After Care,* and *Juvenile Predisposition for Continued Delinquency*. R/D staff were able to obtain measurements of C*haracteristics of Housing Units* and *Predisposition for Continued Delinquency*. Unfortunately, housing unit-specific measurements related to *Juvenile Length of Stay* were unavailable. An analysis of *Juvenile After Care* as it relates to variations in success rates also was identified by the Parole Supervisors and, to avoid unnecessary duplication, the discussion of that factor can be found in section 2C of this report.

The literature on departmental recidivism rates focuses on either an agency as a whole or on specific program(s) within the agency as the units of analysis. The ADJC Outcome Evaluation Report series is breaking new ground by examining success rates by individual housing unit. The purpose of this analysis is to uncover the factors that correlate with success, such that they can be converted into *levers for action* to manage and reduce recidivism. The last Outcome Evaluation Report contained a narrative on each ADJC housing unit. It was difficult to integrate and apply the qualitative information contained in the narrative with the corresponding success rates. This report has attempted to quantify factors that experienced Secure Staff hypothesized were responsible for the observed variations in success rates.

The results obtained from this analysis were constrained by data availability. Since we were concerned with the CY 2000 ADJC release cohort, we were tasked with measuring management conditions two years ago. Nevertheless, some provocative findings were revealed by this endeavor. First, the continued success of the BCS releases suggests that their releases tend to have more success than releases from other facilities. Second, staff characteristics seemed to have less to do with success rates than did juvenile characteristics. We found strong, statistically significant correlation coefficients between recidivism and such variables as substance abuse or peer relationships. Relying on juvenile characteristics to explain recidivism remains problematic because we found inconclusive results for success

rates and traditional measures of risk to re-offend, such as age or number of property offenses. The inconclusive results obtained from the analysis of the *Staff Quality* construct may have been crippled by the measurements themselves, in that we asked the Superintendents to characterize their housing unit staff two years ago on four dimensions using five-point scales. We suspect a relationship between the degree of staff experience in working with delinquent juveniles and success rates; however, we have yet to find a good measure for this element. In addition, the weak and nonsignificant relationship between staff training and success rates probably constitutes an artifact of missing data and/or other technical shortcomings of Ebase.

The inconclusive results also indicated that other variables may have been interacting with these measures and success rates, masking the underlying true relationships. In the future we intend to measure aspects of program quality and see how they relate to success and interact with other factors such as staff quality. The multivariate stepwise regression analysis did control for the influence of other factors. Unfortunately the resultant equation did not include variables e.g., staff training, that are particularly amenable to management influence. Nevertheless the multivariate stepwise regression results are indicative of what ADJC management could have, should better measures of the relevant constructs become available. Indeed, in order for the analysis of success rates to move forward, various valid and reliable measures of hypothesized reasons for success rates must be collected. To avoid unnecessary effort, it is recommended that the various ADJC initiatives related to *Performance Based Standards* (PBS) *Six Sigma*, and the *Long-Range Strategic Plan* include data disaggregated by housing unit and parole office.

C. By Parole Office

Figure 11: Recidivism Success Rates by Parole Office

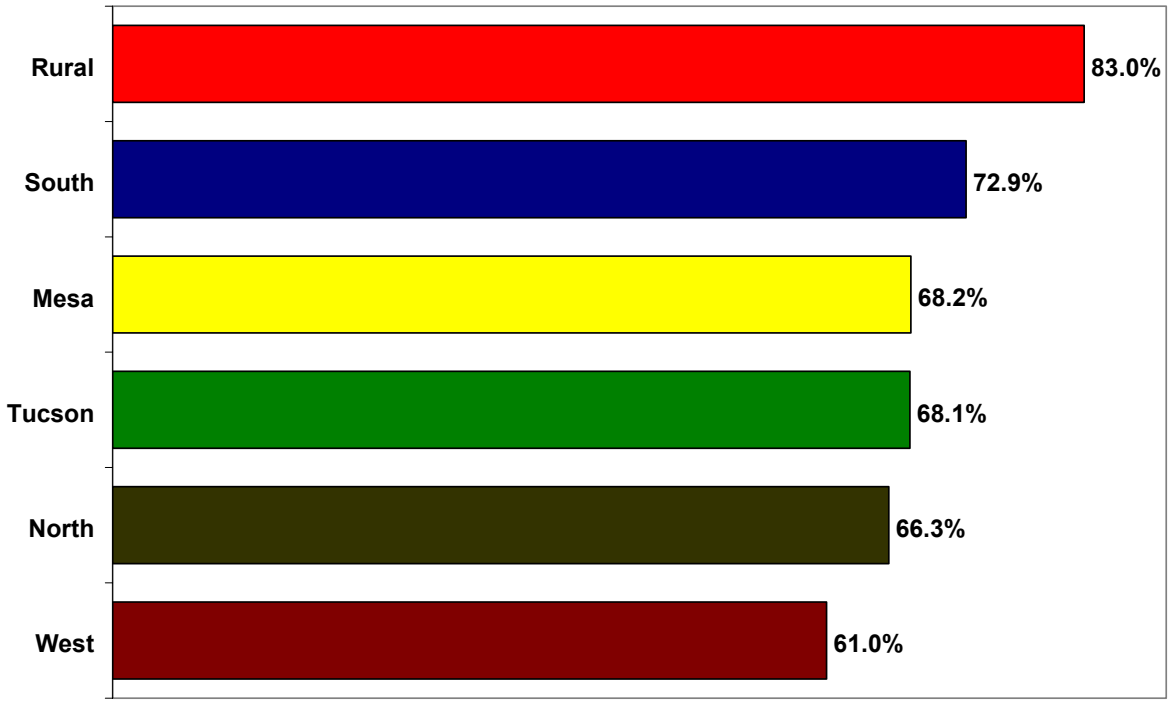


Table 14: Outcome Results By Parole Office

	Mesa	South	North	Tucson	West	Rural
ADC	7.8%	7%	6.7%	5%	6%	2%
Parole Revoked	24%	20.1%	27%	26.9%	33%	15%
Total Recidivism	**31.8%**	**27.1%**	**33.7%**	**31.9%**	**39%**	**17%**
Success	**68.2%**	**72.9%**	**66.3%**	**68.1%**	**61%**	**83%**
Total	100% (n=107)	100% (n=85)	100% (n=89)	100% (n=216)	100% (n=97)	100% (n=243)

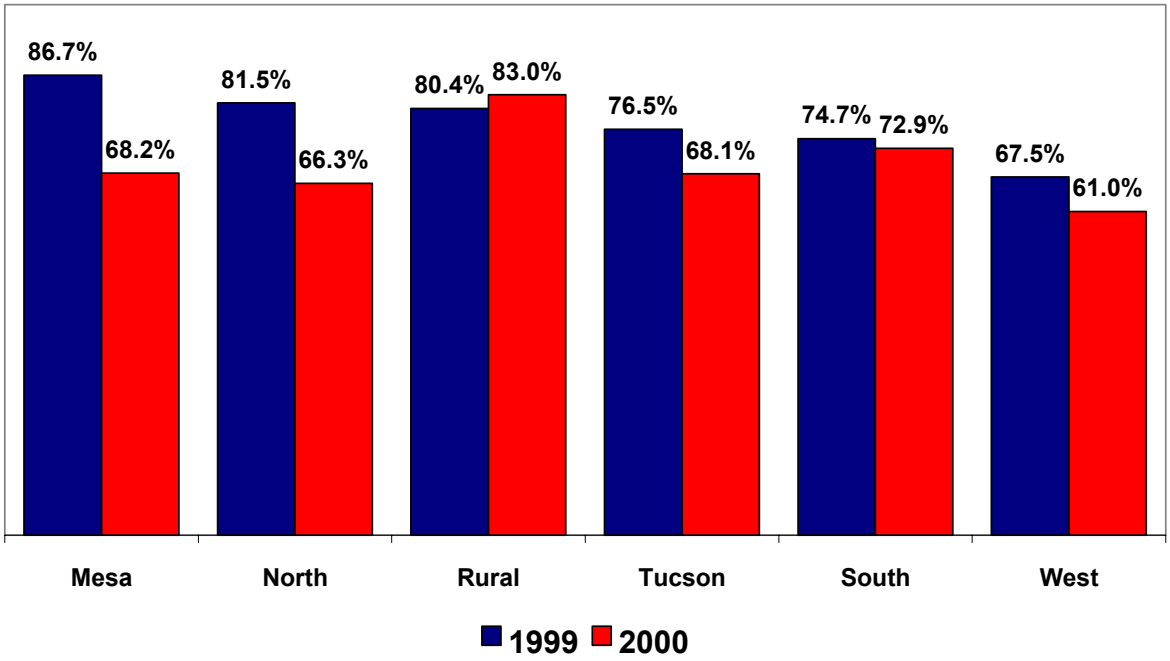
As displayed in Figure 11 and Table 14, the Rural Parole Office had the highest number of releases (243) and the highest success rate (83%). Meanwhile, the West Parole Office had the fourth highest number of releases (97) but the lowest success rate (61%). Among the 2000 release cohort, revocations were more common than ADC sentences, and no

recommitments were recorded. Overall, only 19% of the revocations were initiated by an Arizona juvenile court reawarding the juvenile to ADJC.

Table 15: Recidivism by Type and Parole Office				
	ADC	Parole Revoked	Total Recidivism	
Mesa	17.0%	12.2%	13.1%	
South	12.8%	8.0%	8.8%	
North	12.8%	11.3%	11.5%	
Tucson	23.4%	27.2%	26.5%	
West	12.8%	15.0%	14.6%	
Interstate	0.0%	.9%	.8%	
Rural Counties	10.6%	16.9%	15.8%	
Girls Continuum	4.3%	8.0%	7.3%	
Unknown	6.4%	.5%	1.5%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	

As displayed in Table 15 the Tucson Parole Office (26.5%) contributed one quarter of all recidivists, followed by the Rural (15.8%) and Mesa (13.1%) Parole Offices.

Figure 12: Recidivism Success Rates by Parole Office and Year of Release



All of the parole offices except for the Rural Parole Office posted declines in success rates from 1999 to 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 16: Outcomes by Supervision Level at Release			
	All Releases	**Successful**	**Recidivists**
High	23.6%	22.0%	27.7%
Medium	43.3%	39.7%	52.7%
Low	16.7%	18.7%	11.5%
Unknown	16.4%	19.6%	8.1%
Total	100% (n=945)	100% (n=685)	100% (n=260)

More releases were placed immediately on a medium level of supervision (43.3%) than on either high (23.6%) or low (16.7%) levels, and more than half (52.7%) of the juveniles who recidivated were placed on a medium level of parole supervision when they were *first released* from an ADJC secure school.

Figure 13

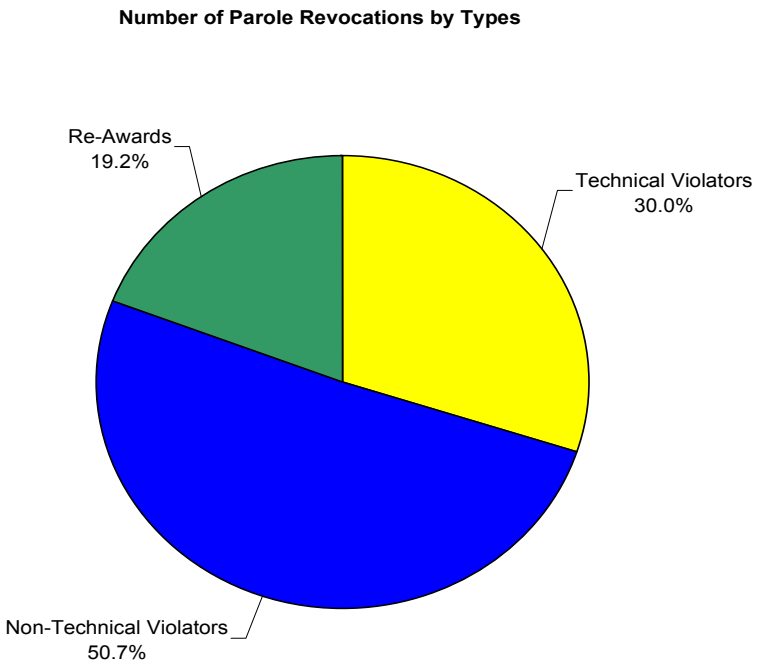
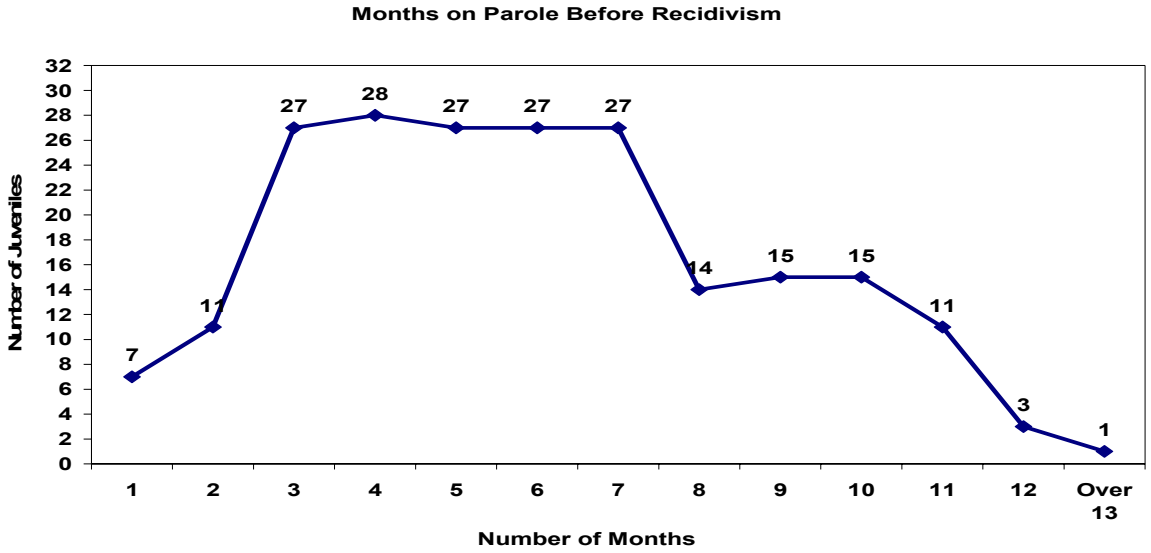


Table 17: Type of Parole Revocation by Supervision Level at Time of Revocation				
	Technical Violations	**Non-Technical Violations**	**Re-awards**	**Total**
High	21.9%	17.6%	17.1%	18.8%
Medium	43.8%	39.8%	41.5%	41.3%
Low	34.4%	42.6%	41.5%	39.9%
Total	100% (n=64)	100% (n=108)	100% (n=41)	100% (n=213)

As displayed in Figure 13 and Table 17, one-half (108 out of 213) of the revocations were for nontechnical violations, and most of the juveniles who had their parole revoked were on a medium level of supervision *at the time of revocation*. Only 18.8% of the juveniles revoked were on a high level of supervision, and more than one-third (39.9%) were on a low level of supervision immediately prior to their revocation.

Figure 14

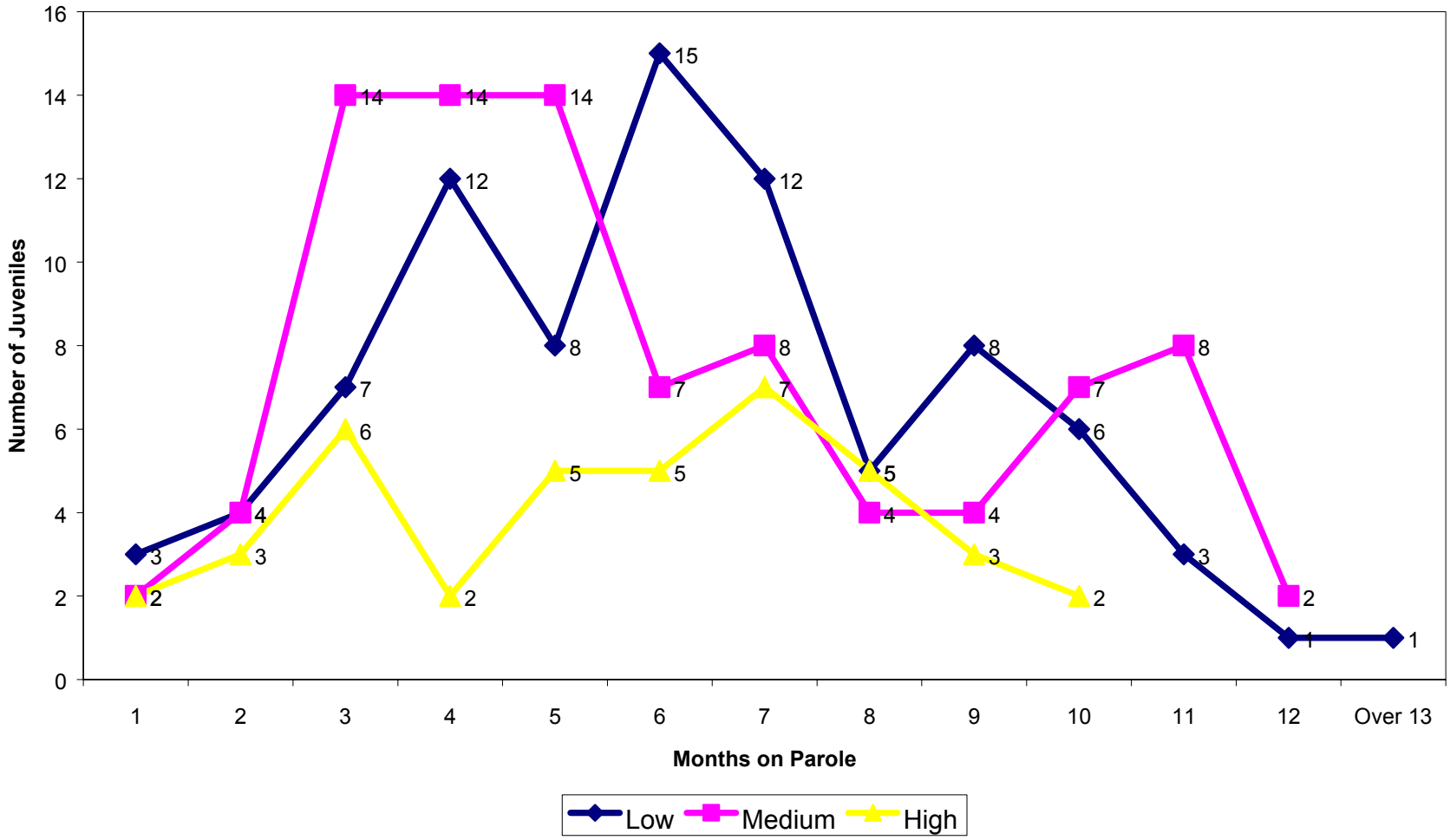


The average time a juvenile spent on parole before recidivating was 5.5 months. As shown in Figure 14, the highest number of juveniles recidivated between 3 and 7 months into their parole.

Figure 15 shows the number of months juveniles spent on parole before recidivating by parole supervision level *at release*. The number of juveniles initially assigned to a low supervision level averaged 5.6 months on parole before returning to secure care, while juveniles initially assigned to a high supervision level averaged 5.2 months on parole.

The ADJC Community Services Management Team and Parole Supervisors were consulted about possible factors to explain observed variations in success rates by parole office. They identified *Family Structure, Poverty, Teamwork/Collaboration, Treatment Services, Race/Ethnicity*, *and Court Practices* as key determinants of success. R/D staff were able to obtain measures on *Family Structure, Poverty, Treatment Services*, *and Race/Ethnicity*.

Figure 15: MONTHS ON PAROLE BEFORE RECIDIVISM
BY PAROLE SUPERVISION LEVEL



When examining the proposed reasons for variations in parole office success rates, we found that the data limitations were not as great as they were when we examined success rates by housing unit. Indeed, we were unable to measure only two factors: *Teamwork/Collaboration* and *Court Practices*.

Somewhat surprising results were obtained when we analyzed the identified factors in light of success rates. While a great many of our juvenile parolees were from single parent or parent/step-parent families, we found a parole office that had a relatively high proportion of cases with two natural parent households had a relatively low success rate. An examination of three other factors identified by ADJC parole staff—*Poverty, Services Provided, and Race/Ethnicity*—also produced counter-intuitive results. It is difficult to know why these results were obtained; perhaps the measures we used were unreliable, and/or the analytical technique we used lacked sufficient power to uncover the true relationships. The dual function of parole (protecting public safety while encouraging juvenile success) also might be an important factor in interrupting the expected direction of the correlation coefficients. Efforts to find appropriate measures and/or statistics will continue in this area as well.

3. LEADERSHIP TEAM QUESTION

The ADJC Encanto facility is for juveniles committed to ADJC who have serious mental health conditions. As a result of these conditions, they are an extremely difficult population to treat in a secure correctional setting. Among the five ADJC secure schools, Encanto releases had the lowest success rates in 1998 (54.8%), 1999 (72.4%), and 2000 (62.5%). Most of those that recidivated did so based on parole revocations (88%) rather than on ADJC recommitment (0%) or a sentence to ADC (12%). Director Gaspar and the Leadership Team selected the Encanto facility as a special-focus topic for this report because they were troubled by the high recidivism rates for juveniles who exhibited serious mental health conditions, and they wanted more information on this important topic.

The Encanto facility accepts juveniles who have been referred from one of the other secure care facilities because of mental health and/or emotional issues that could not be dealt with in the general population. Encanto maintains a therapeutic environment that allows for intensive group and one-on-one attention. Counseling to address specific issues is provided through clinical specialists, psychology associates, psychologists, and a psychiatrist. This facility follows all policies and procedures consistent with departmental expectations for separation programming, e.g., juveniles must adhere to a referral and admissions process. Juveniles admitted to Encanto also have a due process hearing, and, if released to the general population, they undergo a reintegration process back into regular programming.

Many other juveniles in ADJC secure care who have serious mental health conditions are not admitted to the Encanto facility. Indeed, ADJC Behavioral/Medical Services noted that, at any given time, approximately 180 juveniles in ADJC secure care are receiving psychiatric medications. By definition, these juveniles are considered as having serious mental health conditions.

Juvenile referrals to the Encanto program are initiated by interviews with the juveniles in order to assess their need for mental health services. Based on the results of each interview,

the Encanto treatment team must then determine that the juvenile meets four or more of the following criteria:

- S/he has sufficient time left on the commitment (i.e., a minimum of 6 months) to benefit from treatment.
- S/he agrees to cooperate and not refuse treatment at Encanto.
- S/he has a diagnosis of a serious Axis I mental disorder (such as mood disorder, anxiety disorder, psychotic disorder, or mental retardation).
- S/he has a past diagnosis of ADHD, bipolar disorder, psychotic disorder, or oppositional defiant disorder.
- Several psychological and/or psychiatric evaluations in the juvenile's file indicate mental health needs.
- S/he has a history of assaultive and/or impulsive behavior (non-premeditated aggression).
- S/he has a history of sexual abuse (primarily as a victim who experienced significant trauma).
- S/he is taking psychiatric medications or has a past history of taking psychiatric medications.
- S/he was displaying bizarre and/or "out of control" behavior at the time of adjudication, admission, or while programming prior to the referral.
- S/he has a history of several placements in return-to-custody facilities and/or placements in psychiatric hospitals.
- S/he has a history of self-abusive behavior and/or aggression (e.g., suicide attempts).
- S/he has a history of auditory/visual hallucinations.
- S/he ***does not*** have a primary or principal diagnosis of conduct disorder (aggressive or antisocial type), and a secondary mental health or developmental issue.
- S/he ***does not*** have a diagnosis of personality disorder on DSM IV, Axis II as a primary issue needing treatment, with an Axis I diagnosis seen as secondary. This includes "Cluster B" personality disorders, such as borderline personality disorder characteristics, with or without recurrent self-abusive behavior.
- S/he ***does not*** have an overriding need for specialized violent offender, substance abuse, or serious sexualized predatory behavior.

Table 18: DSM IV Diagnoses of Encanto Releases	
DSM IV Diagnosis	**Number of Encanto Youth with Diagnosis**
Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)	21
Bipolar Disorder	17
Substance Abuse	15
R/O Schizoaffective Disorder	5
Sexual Misconduct	5
Schizophrenia	4
Depression Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	4
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	2
Intermittent Explosive Mood Disorder	2
Predominantly Hyperactive Impulsive	2
Adjustment Reaction with Anxious Mood	2
Dysthymic Disorder	2
Sexual Abuse of Children	2
Gender Identity Disorder	2
Oppositional Defiant Disorder	1
Pervasive Developmental Disorder	1
Borderline Personality Disorder	1
Psychotic Disorder	1

As can be seen from Table 18, the most common mental health conditions of the Encanto releases during the year 2000 were attention deficit hyperactive disorder, bipolar disorder, and substance abuse. All[10] except four of the releases had multiple DSM IV diagnoses.

Table 19: Medications Prescribed to Encanto Youth At Time of Release to the Community[11]	
Medication	**Number of Encanto Youth Receiving Medication**
Depakote	10
Lithium	8
Risperdal	8
Seroquel	7
Wellbutrin	5
Ritalin	5
Clonidine	5
Zyprexa	5
Paxil	4
Adderail	2
Zoloft	2
Vistaril	2
Effexor	2

Table 19 lists the 13 most common medications the Encanto releases were prescribed to help stabilize them upon their release to the community. The medications enumerated were contained in the discharge summaries for each of the releases. During CY 2000, each youth was given a 30-day supply[12] to help him/her transition out of secure care back into the community.

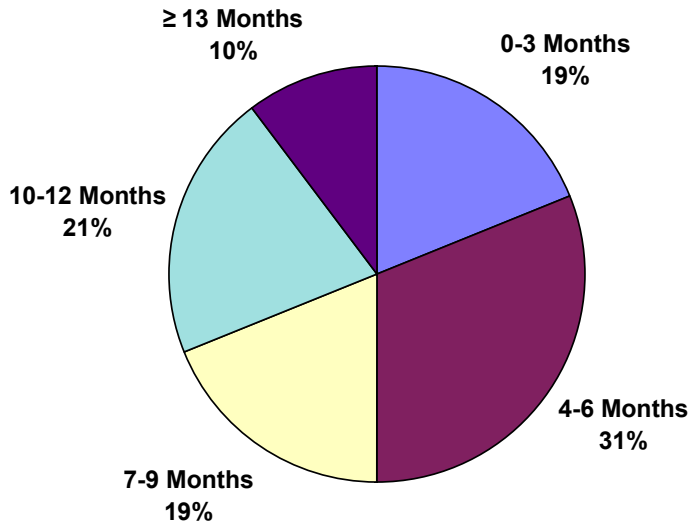
Forty-eight juveniles were released from Encanto in 2000, and their demographic characteristics were similar to those of all releases in 2000. However, they differed with regard to their race/ethnicity and county of commitment. Most Encanto releases were male (85%), and many were either 16 (29%), 17 (25%), or 18 (21%) years old when they left. They differed from the entire 2000 release cohort in that the dominant race/ethnicity was Caucasian (60%). Hispanics (21%) comprised the second largest race/ethnicity, followed by African Americans (13%) and Native Americans (6%). Encanto releases also differed from the entire 2000 release cohort in that a greater number of them were from rural Arizona counties (45%) than from the two urban counties of Maricopa (38%) and Pima (25%).

The delinquency history of the Encanto releases was similar to that of all releases in 2000, although a difference was noted in the number of referrals. The typical Encanto release in 2000 was a property offender with four to six prior adjudications. S/he differed from the entire release cohort in that a higher proportion (+16%) of Encanto releases than all 2000 releases had 16 or more prior referrals. Indeed, while the Encanto releases had a similar number of juvenile court adjudications, they had been referred to the juvenile court system more often than had the full ADJC release cohort.

Almost all (94%) of the Encanto releases who returned to custody were male, and a disproportionate number (22%) were African American. More than one-half of the unsuccessful Encanto releases (56%) were from Maricopa County, and only 11% were from rural counties. Indeed, 66.7% of the Maricopa releases, 33.3% of the Pima releases, and only 6.5% of the rural releases returned to custody. This is an interesting finding because a high proportion (60%) of the Encanto releases were from rural Arizona counties. Many (78%) of

the recidivists were older than the other releases in 2000 in that they were either 16 or 17 when they were released from Encanto. A high proportion (78%) of the Encanto recidivists were property offenders.

Figure 16 Length of Stay at Encanto



Half (50%) of the Encanto releases spent six or fewer months at the facility, while the other half spent seven or more months there (see Figure 16). Almost two-thirds (63%) of the Encanto releases spent 10 or more *total* months in a secure ADJC facility, and 78% of the Encanto releases spent up to six months in another ADJC facility before they were placed in Encanto.

We analyzed[13] a convenience sample of 12 Encanto releases for hard-to-obtain information on the behavior of juvenile releases while in the community. All but 2 of the 12 youth were discharged from ADJC when they turned 18. Each of the 12 youth in the sample was diagnosed with a DSM IV Axis one[14] mental health condition and was treated with medication before being committed to ADJC. As part of the Encanto program, their medications were continued. When the juveniles were released from Encanto, psychiatric

services and medications were part of their community plan. When the Encanto Superintendent's Review Board (SRB) determined a release date for each juvenile, a Value Options representative submitted an application for mental health services if the juvenile was from Maricopa County. A Parole Officer submitted an application for mental health services if the juvenile resided in one of the other 14 Arizona counties.

Upon release, it became the responsibility of parents or community residential providers to ensure that the juveniles had doctor appointments and continued on medications. Often, medical staff in the community consulted medical files that were started with them when the juveniles were on probation. (prior to ADJC commitment). Prescription medication information gathered by the community providers was obtained by conducting examinations of the medications given to the juveniles upon their release from Encanto. We were unable to locate the *Psychology Discharge Summaries* prepared by Encanto staff in the master or field files or Parole Officer notes for the Encanto releases in 2000. It is unclear to what extent this situation contributed to the higher Encanto recidivism rates.

The following two case summaries were prepared to provide a deeper understanding of the complex nature of the juveniles assigned to and released from the Encanto facility.

- The juvenile was a 14-year-old Caucasian male who was placed on probation in Maricopa County in December 1996 (at age 13), for indecent exposure and sexual conduct with a minor under age 15. Following eight complaints for petty theft and probation violations, the juvenile was awarded to ADJC. The juvenile spent 16 months at AMS in the January and Enterprise units. He was in separation 13 times during that period and was convicted of aggravated assault against a corrections officer in February 1999. In November 1999 he was transferred to Encanto, where he spent the next 7 months. During that time, he was diagnosed as having schizophrenia–paranoid type, schizoaffective disorder, and drug-induced organic mental disorder and was placed on the medications Zyprexa and Depakote. On July 6, 2000, the juvenile was released to his mother and met with his parole officer. On the same day, his parole officer enrolled the juvenile at Impact, and he was back on medication at the end of July. He also was set up for counseling with Kids Care and was enrolled in school. Over the next 10 months, the parole officer monitored the juvenile closely, ensuring that he took his medications and attended counseling sessions and school. Twice, the juvenile had to go into residential placement to be stabilized on medications while his mother was homeless. On January 19, 2001, the juvenile and his mother moved to Ohio to live with grandparents. The

parole officer in Ohio was able to see that the juvenile received his medications and attended school. In October 2001, the juvenile earned a discharge.

- Another juvenile in the sample did not have as favorable an outcome. A 13-year-old African American male was placed on probation for simple assault with intent to cause injury. After going before a judge in Maricopa County 14 times, he was committed to ADJC for aggravated assault against a corrections officer. After three times in separation over a one-month period, he was admitted to Encanto with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and substance abuse. The juvenile spent eight months in Encanto, where he received Lactaid III Tabs, Neurontin, and Zyprexa. While at Encanto he demonstrated sexual misconduct, which resulted in a recommendation that he be placed with a residential provider for young sex offenders upon release. In April 2001, he was placed in a residential program (*Youth, Etc.)* to await a placement opening in another program. Two weeks later, the juvenile sexually molested a 13-year-old boy at the residence and was returned to ADJC. His parole was revoked, and he spent the next 9 months at ADJC, where he refused to attend counseling sessions. Eventually, he turned 18 and was released in April 2002.

Among the five ADJC secure schools, Encanto releases had the lowest success rates in 1998, 1999, and 2000. The success rates would be even lower if Encanto releases to the rural counties had been returned at rates similar to those posted by Maricopa and Pima Counties. The juveniles assigned to Encanto during those years had both chronic delinquency problems and serious mental health conditions, many with multiple conditions including ADHD, bipolar disorder, and substance abuse. Indeed, these were the most serious mental health cases within the department at that time, and this was an extremely difficult population to treat in a correctional setting. The two case summaries presented above demonstrate the difficult nature of the population. Although some demographic and delinquency history differences were noted between Encanto releases and all others in the 2000 release cohort, similarities outnumbered differences. Most Encanto releases had spent a considerable amount of time within an ADJC secure facility and on parole. In fact, most of them (51%) had spent six or more months in Encanto, and 78% had spent up to six months in another ADJC facility before they were placed in Encanto. Only 2 of the 12 in our sample were discharged from ADJC before they turned 18 years old. ADJC secure care and parole staff face a serious challenge in dealing with this difficult population in the future.

4. SUMMARY OF NATIONAL RESEARCH ON JUVENILE OFFENDER RETURN TO CUSTODY

Nationwide research on recidivism can help inform and provide the necessary context for understanding the short and long-term outcome evaluation findings on releases from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. This section provides a summary of outcome research conducted by juvenile corrections agencies across the country, as well as national research conducted on outcomes for juvenile offenders. Further deGtailed information on this research can be found in two earlier reports prepared for ADJC by NCCD: *National Comparisons of Recidivism Measures* (October 1999) and *Research on Recidivism and Serious Juvenile Offenders: A Review of the Literature* (December 1999).

A. State Comparisons of Recidivism Rates

Like ADJC, many juvenile corrections agencies across the nation are collecting, evaluating, and reporting outcome data in an effort to measure the effectiveness of their programs. The primary outcome in which decision makers and citizens are most interested is recidivism. Recidivism can be defined and measured in many ways, but it generally refers to the repetition of delinquent or criminal behavior. This section presents a summary of selected data on recidivism rates from state juvenile corrections agencies across the country. These data are used to make comparisons, where possible, between Arizona's rates and those of other states.

1. Measuring and Comparing Recidivism as an Outcome

States typically use one or a combination of three distinct methods of measuring recidivism: juvenile re-referrals or adult arrests, juvenile readjudications or adult convictions, and juvenile recommitments or adult sentences. Currently, Arizona does not collect data that can be used to compare recidivism rates on re-referrals/arrests or readjudications/convictions. To generate data on these outcomes, ADJC would need to be provided with or have access to law enforcement data, juvenile court data, and adult court data.

Although differences in the definition of recidivism and other technical issues of measurement (e.g., similar follow-up periods) limit comparisons, ADJC does have data that enable comparisons of its recidivism rates with the rates of other states using recommitments and sentences to adult corrections outcomes. Recommitment to a juvenile justice program or adult corrections refers to those juveniles who, after release from a state juvenile corrections facility, are returned to custody in a state juvenile corrections facility or to a state adult corrections facility following a sentence in an adult court.

The principal source of information on recidivism rates from state juvenile corrections agencies across the country was a survey conducted by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Bureau of Data and Research and presented in its report, entitled *National Comparisons from State Recidivism Studies*. The findings from the report were presented originally in ADJC's *Fourth Annual Report* on its outcome evaluation research (January 2001).

For this report, NCCD attempted to update recidivism rates from the state agencies that had reported rates previously using a definition comparable to that of ADJC. To do so, NCCD contacted each of these agencies by telephone to obtain the latest rates and reports, when available. From this effort, several conclusions can be drawn about the conduct of outcome evaluation research by juvenile corrections agencies nationwide.

First, only a limited number of agencies conduct outcome evaluation research on a continuing (e.g., annual) basis. As a result, updated rates are available from only a few state agencies. In addition, some agencies modify their definitions of recidivism over time. For example, some juvenile corrections agencies have narrowed their definitions to include only outcomes in the juvenile justice system, excluding those that may have occurred in the adult criminal justice system. Others have expanded their definitions, for example by adding an adult probation sentence to measured outcomes within the criminal justice system. The next section of this report presents the most recent recidivism rates from ADJC and other state juvenile corrections agencies using comparable definitions and follow-up periods.

2. Selected Comparison of Recidivism Rates from State Juvenile Corrections Agencies

Figure 17 presents recidivism rates for Arizona, North Dakota, Louisiana, Florida, and Texas based on returns to custody in a juvenile or adult corrections program within a 12-month follow-up period. The figure presents some multiple rates, since North Dakota, Florida, and Texas also conduct comparable outcome evaluations on an annual basis. From Figure 17, Arizona's return-to-custody rates for its 1996-2000 release cohorts ranged from a low of 20.1% (1999) to a high of 27.5% (2000). For the four most recent release cohorts for which comparable definitions were used, Figure 17 shows that North Dakota's rates were lower, ranging from 6.6% (FY 1996-1997) to 13.6% (FY 1992-1993). It also shows somewhat higher rates for Louisiana, Florida, and Texas. Louisiana reported a return-to-custody rate of 28.1% for its 1995 release cohort. Texas reported the highest rates, ranging from a low of 26.9% (1998) to a high of 31.1% (2000). Figure 17 shows higher return-to-custody rates for Florida, which ranged from a low of 22.1% (FY 1999-2000) to a high of 29.5% (FY 1995-1996).

Figure 17: Return to Custody Rates in a Juvenile or Adult Corrections Program after Release from a Juvenile Corrections Program for States with a 12-Month Follow-up Period

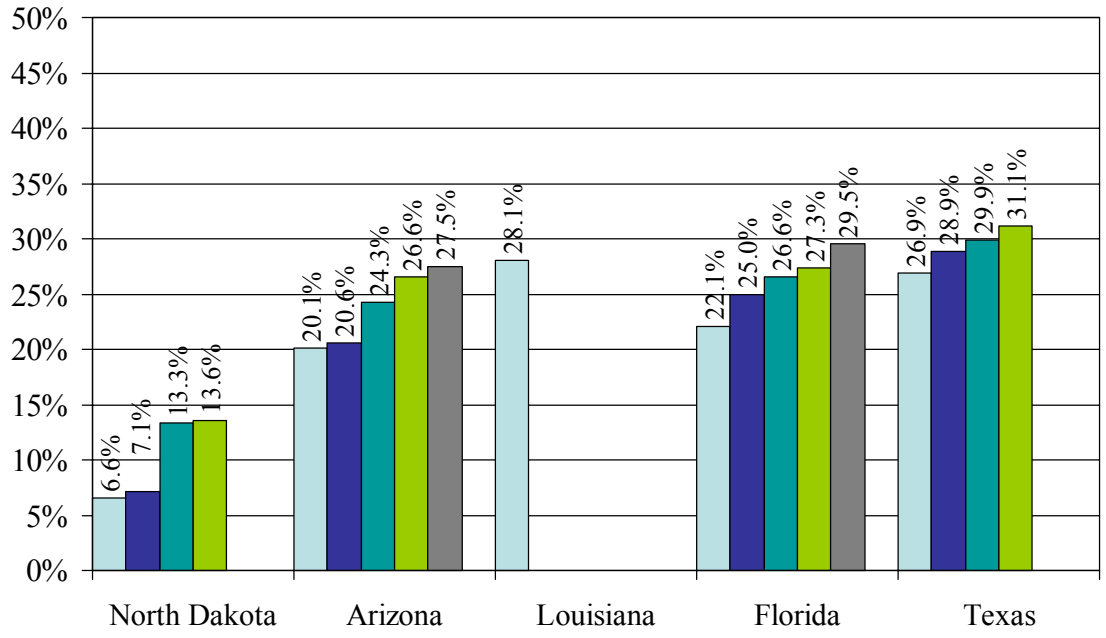


Figure 18 presents recidivism rates for Arizona, Wisconsin, and Texas using the return-to-custody definition within a 24-month follow-up period. Figure 20 shows that Arizona's rates ranged from a low of 34.8% (1996) to a high of 38.8% (1999). These rates were lower than Wisconsin's rates, which ranged from a low of 42.4% (1990) to a high of 43.6% (1992). Figure 20 also shows that Arizona's rates were lower than Texas' rates, which ranged from a low of 41.5% (1998) to a high of 44.2% (1999).

Figure 18: Return to Custody Rates in a Juvenile or Adult Corrections Program after Release from a Juvenile Corrections Program for States with a 24-Month Follow-up Period

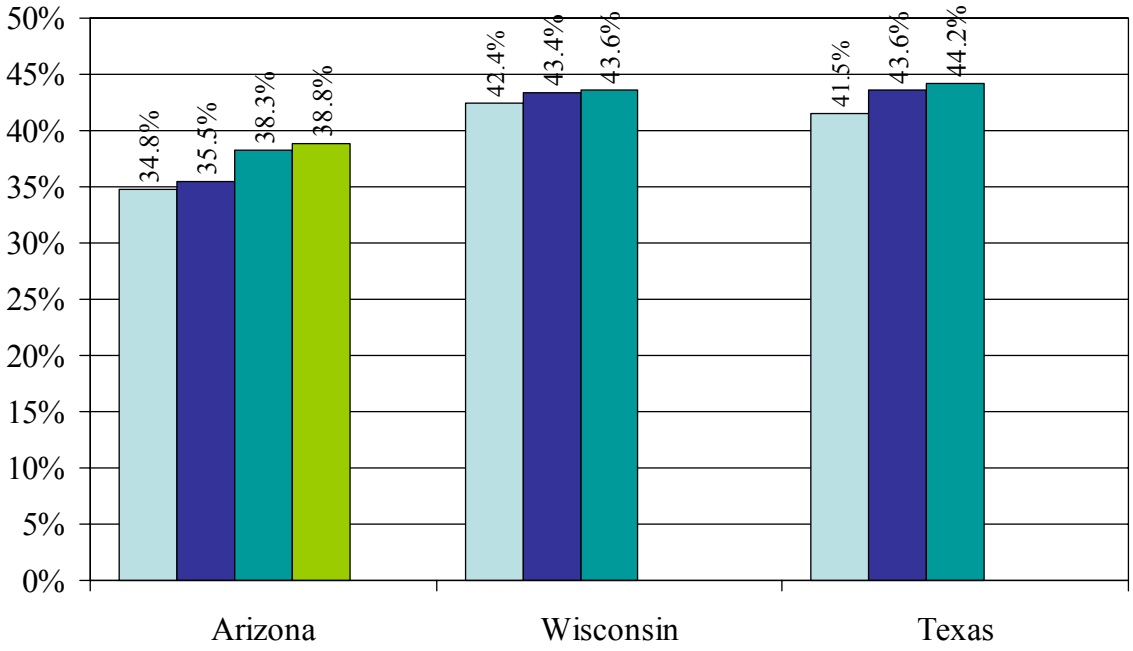
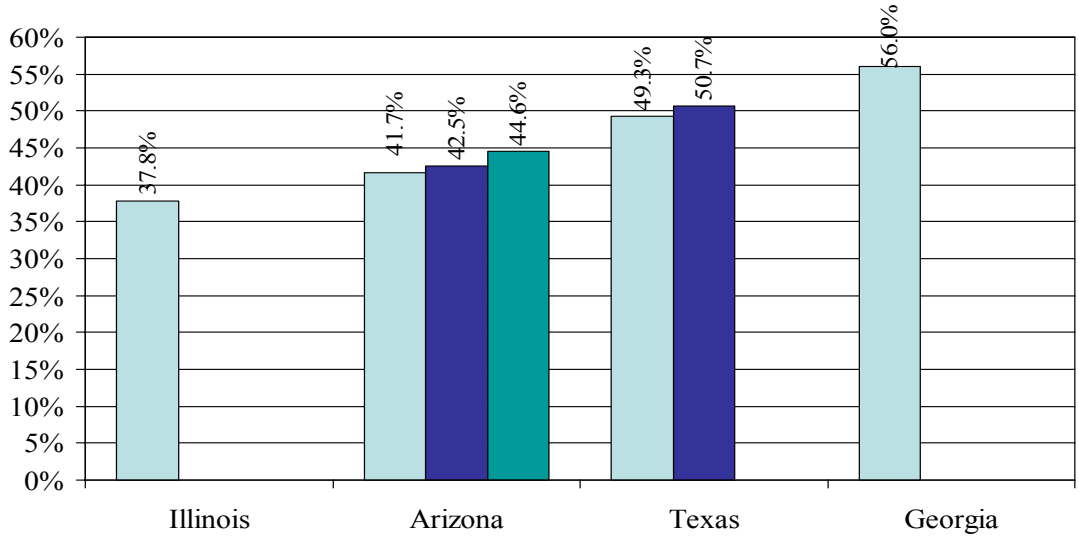


Figure 19 presents recidivism rates for Illinois, Arizona, Texas, and Georgia using the return-to-custody definition within a 36-month follow-up period. This figure shows that Arizona's rates ranged from a low of 41.7% (1996) to a high of 44.6% (1998). It also shows that Arizona's rates were higher than Illinois' rate, reported at 37.8%. However, Figure 21 shows that Arizona's rates were lower than those reported by both Texas and Georgia. Texas reported higher rates of 49.3% (1998) and 50.7% (1997). Figure 21 shows that Georgia reported the highest rate, at 56.0%.

Figure19

Figure 3
Return to Custody Rates in a Juvenile or Adult Corrections Program after Release from a Juvenile Corrections Program for States with a 36-Month Follow-up Period



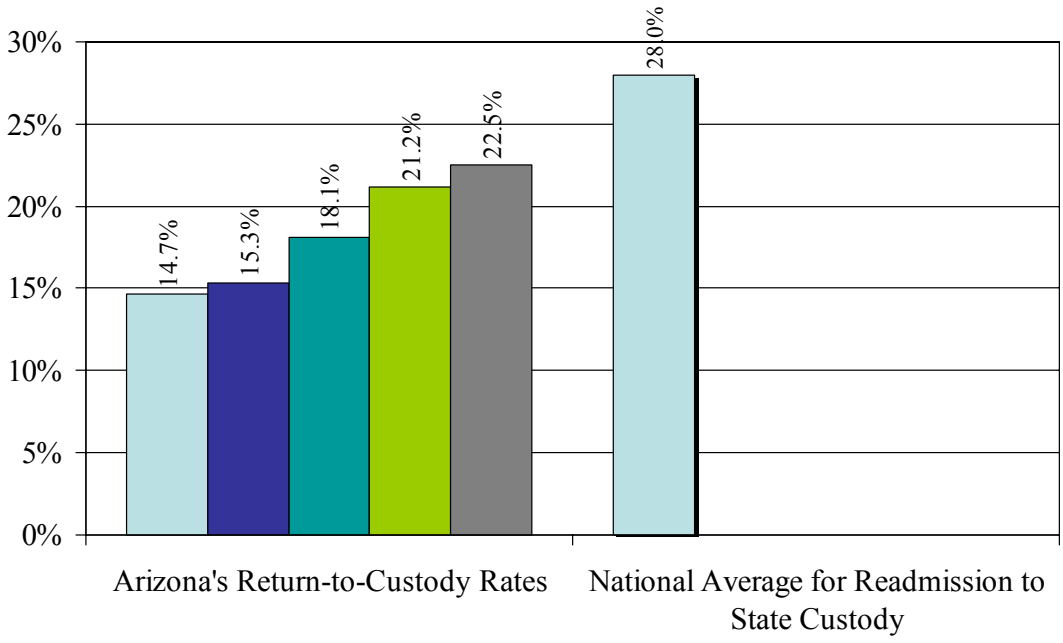
3. Comparisons Using Data from the State Juvenile Corrections Reporting Program

As part of a national research effort supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, NCCD created a national database that contains individual-level data on juvenile admissions to and releases from state custody. The research program and database, the State Juvenile Corrections Reporting Program (SJCSRP), were developed to facilitate reporting on the numbers and characteristics of juveniles taken into custody. Included in the database is information on readmissions to state juvenile corrections systems. The most recent report, *Juveniles Taken Into Custody, FY 1995 Annual Report,* contains information that is useful in comparing rates with ADJC outcomes.

Using the SJCSRP data, the national average for youths under 17 years of age (in 26 states with an upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction of 17, reporting releases in CY 1993) who were readmitted to state juvenile corrections systems in the 12 months following their release from state custody was 28%. Arizona's rates for readmission (parole revocations and

recommitments) to ADJC within 12 months after release were 15.3%, 18.1%, 21.2%, 14.7%, and 22.5% for the 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000 release cohorts, respectively. These rates compare favorably to the national average of 28% as shown in Figure 20.

Figure 20
Comparison Between Average Readmission Rates for States Providing Data to the State Juvenile Corrections System Reporting Program and Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Return-to-Custody Rates



B. Interpreting Comparisons of Recidivism Rates

The comparisons of state return-to-custody rates presented above show that Arizona's rates compare very favorably to those of most other states using the same definitions of recidivism. These favorable results, in fact, may reflect the relative effectiveness of the programs and services employed with juvenile offenders in Arizona compared with those employed in other states. However, the comparisons have a number of limitations that require interpretations to be made with considerable caution.

First, drawing conclusions about the differential effectiveness of programming and services is limited by the fact that information on the relative types, intensity, and duration of interventions from state to state is not readily available.

In addition, using the return-to-custody definition of recidivism may underestimate the actual rates of subsequent delinquent or criminal behavior to unknown and variable degrees from state to state. This underestimation results, in part, from the number of delinquent or criminal acts that remain unreported or cannot be attributed to a particular offender. Return-to-custody definitions also will underestimate overall recidivism for some offenders committing subsequent crimes but receiving dispositions not included in this definition, such as sentences to adult probation.

Finally, differences in return-to-custody rates may result from differences in the characteristics of juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of state agencies. For example, differences in the frequency and severity of offenses, such risk factors as age of onset of offending, and criminogenic factors in the juvenile's environment may all affect responsivity to whatever programs and services may be employed by state corrections agencies.

For all of these reasons, conclusions from state-to-state comparisons must be drawn with considerable caution, and future recidivism research should be conducted so that additional information on across-state differences (e.g., offender characteristics, differential programs and services) can be accounted for. Most importantly, comparisons should focus primarily on within-state differences in recidivism rates. Future research should focus primarily on uncovering the underlying factors (e.g., changes in populations, policies, or practices) that are contributing to changes in rates over time. This information is most useful for administrators and managers who are attempting proactively to develop and implement strategies that can improve their agencies' effectiveness over time.

5. MEASURING OUTCOMES FOR AN ADJC RELEASE SAMPLE OF JUVENILES FOR RISK ASSESSMENT REVALIDATION

I. Background

In the mid-1990s, the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) contracted with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) to assist in the development of a classification system for juvenile offenders. The initial objective of this collaborative research effort was to develop a preliminary risk assessment instrument and other case management procedures intended to guide custody-related decisions for juveniles. The risk assessment instrument currently in use was developed in 1994 and was based on the outcomes of a sample of youth released from a new ADJC commitment episode.

This section describes initial steps for the upcoming validation of the risk assessment instrument currently in use. The sample characteristics are described, followed by a discussion of multiple outcome measures.

II. Sampling Methods

The ADJC risk assessment revalidation sample consists of 1,374 juveniles who were released from ADJC institutions during fiscal year (FY) 1999. To ensure adequate representation, female, African American, American Indian, and Asian youth were oversampled to include youth released in the first half of calendar year (CY) 1998. The following information was available for each sample case:

- demographic data;
- data from the current risk assessment and needs assessment; and
- offense-related data recorded by case workers at the time of intake.

III. Sample Characteristics

Characteristics of the sample of juveniles released from ADJC are shown in Table 27. The sample is predominantly male (85.2%), the majority (45%) Hispanic and 33.7% Caucasian. Approximately one-half (50.3%) of the sample youth were 17 years of age or older at the time of release, while another 23% were younger than age 15. (Note: 62.3% of youth who were committed as a result of a parole revocation were 17 years or older at the time of release.) Further, Table 20 shows that most (78.1%) of the sample were new commitments and that 20.4% were committed as a result of a parole revocation. Finally, Table 20 shows the severity classification of the most serious offenses at admission. The majority (52.5%) of the sample were admitted for a Class 6 Felony or misdemeanor offense.

Table 20

Characteristics of Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections – Youth Released January 1998 - June 1999

Characteristics	Revocation Cases		New Commit/ Recommit		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sex						
Female	33	10.5%	194	15.9%	**227**	**14.8%**
Male	280	89.5%	1,025	84.1%	**1,305**	**85.2%**
Total	**313**	**100.0%**	**1,219**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Race/Ethnicity						
White	94	30.0%	423	34.7%	**517**	**33.7%**
African American	41	13.1%	175	14.4%	**216**	**14.1%**
Hispanic	165	52.7%	524	43.0%	**689**	**45.0%**
Other	13	4.2%	97	8.0%	**110**	**7.2%**
Total	**313**	**100.0%**	**1,219**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Age at Exit						
14 or younger	7	2.2%	105	8.6%	**112**	**7.3%**
15 years old	25	8.0%	215	17.6%	**240**	**15.7%**
16 years old	86	27.5%	324	26.6%	**410**	**26.8%**
17 or older	195	62.3%	575	47.2%	**770**	**50.3%**
Total	**313**	**100.0%**	**1,219**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Commitment Status						
New commitment	0	0.0%	1,197	98.2%	**1,197**	**78.1%**
Recommitment	0	0.0%	22	1.8%	**22**	**1.4%**
Revocation	313	100.0%	0	0.0%	**313**	**20.4%**
Total	**313**	**100.0%**	**1,219**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Most Serious Class of Commitment Offense						
Class 2 felony	9	2.9%	78	6.4%	**87**	**5.7%**
Class 3 felony	38	12.1%	242	19.9%	**280**	**18.3%**
Class 4 felony	51	16.3%	182	14.9%	**233**	**15.2%**
Class 5 felony	19	6.1%	109	8.9%	**128**	**8.4%**
Class 6 felony, all misdemeanors	196	62.6%	608	49.9%	**804**	**52.5%**
Total	**313**	**100.0%**	**1,219**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**

IV. Offender Recidivism

To measure recidivism, each juvenile was "tracked" for 12 months after his or her institutional release. Recidivism data came from two sources: (1) the ADJC Youthbase database, and (2) criminal history records from the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Combining these information sources permitted computation of multiple recidivism measures, including a subsequent:

- juvenile adjudication,
- felony juvenile adjudication,
- juvenile revocation,
- adult conviction, and
- new juvenile adjudication or adult conviction.

Table 21 shows the rates for each of these recidivism measures for the entire sample, as well as separately for juveniles who were 17 years of age or older and those who were under 17 years of age at the time of release. As shown in Table 21, the recidivism rates ranged from a high of 42.6% for any new juvenile adjudication or adult conviction to a low rate of 13.1% for any subsequent felony juvenile adjudication and 13.4% for any subsequent adult conviction. The rate for any subsequent juvenile adjudication was 31.1%, while the rate for any juvenile revocation was 26.6%. Results also are summarized in Figure 21.

Table 21

Recidivism Measures
Criminal Activity Within 12-month Follow-up Period

Outcome Measure	17 and Older at Release		Under 17 at Release		Entire Sample	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Any Juvenile Adjudication*						
None	654	84.9%	401	52.6%	**1,055**	**68.9%**
One or more	116	15.1%	361	47.4%	**477**	**31.1%**
Total	**770**	**100.0%**	**762**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Felony Juvenile Adjudication						
None	725	94.2%	607	79.7%	**1,332**	**86.9%**
One or more	45	5.8%	155	20.3%	**200**	**13.1%**
Total	**770**	**100.0%**	**762**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Any Juvenile Revocation						
None	673	87.4%	452	59.3%	**1,125**	**73.4%**
One or more	97	12.6%	310	40.7%	**407**	**26.6%**
Total	**770**	**100.0%**	**762**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Adult Conviction**						
No	595	77.3%	732	96.1%	**1,327**	**86.6%**
Yes	175	22.7%	30	3.9%	**205**	**13.4%**
Total	**770**	**100.0%**	**762**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**
Any New Juvenile Adjudication or Adult Conviction						
No	500	64.9%	380	49.9%	**880**	**57.4%**
Yes	270	35.1%	382	50.1%	**652**	**42.6%**
Total	**770**	**100.0%**	**762**	**100.0%**	**1,532**	**100.0%**

*Includes adjudicated petitions for felony, misdemeanor, status, or violation offenses. If violations are not counted, the rates are: 9.4% of the juveniles who were 17 years or older at the time of release had one or more subsequent juvenile adjudications, while 33.2% of juveniles under age 17 at the time of release had one or more subsequent juvenile adjudications.
**Includes convictions for felony or misdemeanor offenses. Because of the manner in which adult offenses are coded, accurate identification of felony offenses is not possible at this time.

Figure 21

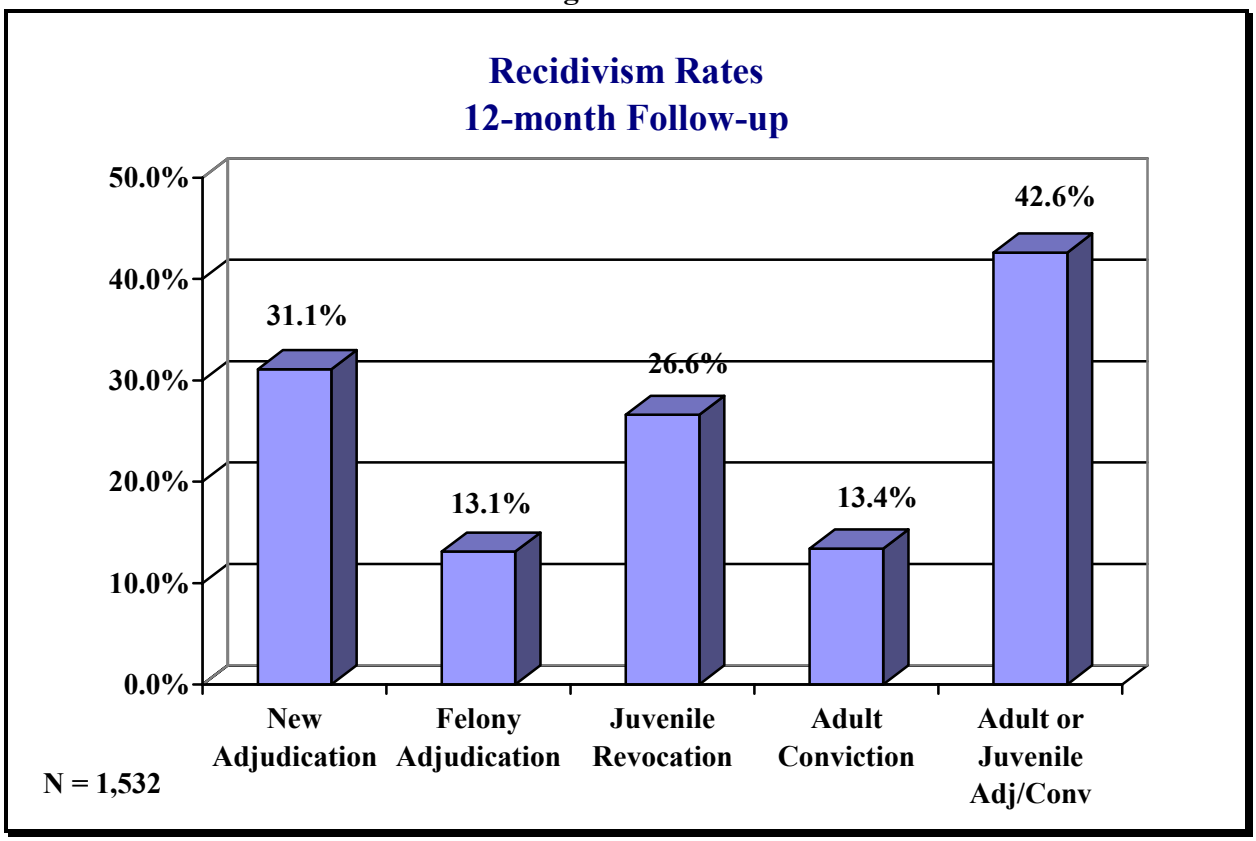


Table 29 shows the average number of recidivism events (i.e., incidents) for juveniles in the release sample who had at least one incident reported during the 12-month follow-up period. Averages are reported separately for each of the five recidivism measures. The average number of incidents also is shown separately for juveniles in the sample who were 17 years of age and older at the time of release and those who were younger than 17 years of age at the time of release.

Table 22 shows that the highest average number of recidivism incidents (3.2) was for any subsequent juvenile adjudication. The incident rates for all other recidivism measures were substantially lower. The lowest incident rate (1.1) was recorded for subsequent juvenile revocation.

Table 22 Recidivism Measures Average Number of Criminal Activity Events Within 12-month Follow-up Period			
Outcome Measure	**Age at Release**		**Overall Average**
	17 and Older	**Under 17**	
Any juvenile adjudication	2.9	3.3	**3.2**
Felony juvenile adjudication	1.5	1.7	**1.7**
Any juvenile revocation	1.0	1.1	**1.1**
Any adult conviction	1.5	1.3	**1.4**
Any new juvenile adjudication/adult conviction	1.4	1.0	**1.2**

V. Conclusion

As observed in other jurisdictions, results indicate that alternate definitions of recidivism can produce substantially different prevalence rates (i.e., proportion of the sample with at least one occurrence of a recidivism measure) and incidence rates (i.e., the average number of incidents of a recidivism measure) for the release sample.

The next step in this revalidation research will be to identify the best combination(s) of recidivism measures. This will lead to development of an ADJC risk assessment instrument that can maximize the capacity to discriminate between subgroups that have significantly different recidivism rates.

6. CONCLUSIONS

On average, 24% of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) releases returned to custody within one year of their release, 37% returned within two years, and 43.1% returned within three years. Comparisons of ADJC return-to-custody rates with those of other states show that Arizona's rates compare very favorably with those of most other states using the same definitions of recidivism. These favorable results, in fact, may reflect the relative effectiveness of the programs and services employed with juvenile offenders in Arizona compared with those employed in other states.

The CY 2000 ADJC releases posted an increase in their *one-year* return-to-custody rate over the rate posted by the 1999 releases. The 1999 releases posted an increase in their *two-year* return-to-custody rate over the rate posted by the 1998 releases. Finally, the 1998 releases posted an increase in their *three-year* return to custody rate over the rate posted by the 1997 releases. All three of the increases were fueled by increases in parole revocations, which probably resulted in large part from ADJC efforts to hold juveniles accountable and return them to secure custody whenever they violated their parole conditions or committed new offenses.

Concurrent with these trend increases were (a) decreases in the proportion of ADJC releases recommitted to ADJC for new offenses, and (b) decreases in the proportion of ADJC releases sentenced to ADC within 12 or 36 months of their release. These concurrent decreases in return-to-custody rates are good news for ADJC, since they demonstrate that the overall increase in return-to-custody rates resulted from ADJC-initiated rather than juvenile or criminal court-initiated actions. Indeed, ADJC's commitment to hold juveniles on parole accountable for their actions is consistent with ADJC's public safety mission.

Institutional success rates for the CY 2000 release cohort decreased from 1999. Black Canyon School had the highest and Encanto had the lowest success rates for the second consecutive year. Three ADJC housing units experienced no returns to custody within one

year of their juveniles' release, and more than 75% of the units had success rates of 66.7% or greater. The Secure Schools Management Team and Superintendents were consulted about the possible factors explaining observed variations in success rates by housing unit. They identified four constructs that they felt had contributed to the observed variations in success rates: *Characteristics of Housing Units*, *Juvenile Length of Stay*, *Juvenile After Care,* and *Juvenile Predisposition for Continued Delinquency*. The results obtained from this analysis were constrained by data availability. Nevertheless, some provocative findings were revealed by this endeavor. First, the continued success of the BCS releases suggests that their releases tend to have more success than releases from other facilities. Second, staff characteristics seemed to have less to do with success rates than did juvenile characteristics. We found strong statistically significant correlation coefficients between such variables as substance abuse or peer relationships and recidivism. In addition, future research efforts will address program integrity issues and will try to disentangle the effects of programming from staffing upon success rates.

The ADJC Community Services Management Team and Parole Supervisors were consulted about the possible factors explaining observed variations in success rates by parole office. They identified *Family Structure, Poverty, Teamwork/Collaboration, Treatment Services, Race/Ethnicity, and Court Practices* as key determinants of success. Somewhat surprising results were obtained when we analyzed the identified factors in light of success rates. While a great many of our juvenile parolees were from single-parent or parent/step-parent families, we found a parole office that had a relatively high proportion of cases with two-natural-parent households having a relatively low success rate. An examination of *Poverty, Services Provided, and Race/Ethnicity* also produced counter-intuitive results.

Among the five ADJC secure schools, Encanto releases had the lowest success rates in 1998, 1999, and 2000. The juveniles assigned to Encanto during those years had both chronic delinquency problems and serious mental health conditions, with many having multiple mental health conditions including ADHD, bipolar disorder, and substance abuse. Some demographic and delinquency history differences were noted between Encanto releases and all others in the 2000 release cohort, however, similarities outnumbered differences. Most

Encanto releases had spent a considerable amount of time within an ADJC secure facility and on parole. In fact, most of them (51%) had spent six or more months in Encanto, and 78% had spent up to six months in another ADJC facility before they were placed in Encanto. We were unable to locate the *Psychology Discharge Summaries* prepared by Encanto staff in the master or field files or Parole Officer notes for the Encanto releases in 2000. It is unclear to what extent this situation contributed to the higher Encanto recidivism rates. ADJC secure care and parole staff face a serious challenge in dealing with this difficult population in the future.

A section of this report describes the initial steps for an upcoming validation of the risk assessment instrument currently in use at ADJC. The sample characteristics are described, followed by a discussion of multiple outcome measures. Results indicate that alternate definitions of recidivism can produce substantially different prevalence rates (i.e., proportion of the sample with at least one occurrence of a recidivism measure) and incidence rates (i.e., the average number of incidents of a recidivism measure) for the release sample. The next step in this revalidation research will be to identify the best combination(s) of recidivism measures. This will lead to the development of an ADJC risk assessment instrument that can maximize the capacity to discriminate between subgroups that have significantly different recidivism rates.

7. END NOTES

[1]

[2]A recommitment is a juvenile released from secure custody and awarded an absolute discharge, who then commits a new offense and is returned to the ADJC by an Arizona juvenile court.

[3]An increase was noted, from 11.4% to 12%, between the 1999 and 2000 release cohorts.

[4] A total of 158 juveniles were released when they turned 18 years old – all but one was recorded as being released on their birthday, the remaining one was recorded as being released the day after their birthday.

[5]Arizona's juvenile court, and in turn ADJC, has jurisdiction over juveniles until they turn 18 years old.

[6]A total of 255 (25%) of the 1,040 1999 releases lacked data on their level on release. Level data were not collected in the department's automated system, Youthbase, until the automated *Individual Development Plan* was created in 1998. Inputting that information into Youthbase was not a requirement until 1999; as a result, the 1999 release cohort had a high percentage of missing data (24.5% of the 1,400 releases lacked data on this element).

[7] Indeed, Wilson and Herrstein have said "Criminal behavior depends as much or more on age than on any other demographic characteristic…yet examined by criminologists."
James Q. Wilson and Richard J. Herrnstein, Crime and Human Nature, New York: Simon and Schuster 1985.

[8]In fact, a sizable proportion (77.2%) of ADJC commitments in 2001 were on probation or intensive probation at the time of their commitment.

[9]Robert Barnoski, Standards for Improving Research Effectiveness in Adult and Juvenile Justice, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, December 1997.

[10]Nine of the 48 youth reviewed did not have a DSM IV diagnosis, or the medical records could not be located.

[11]In Addition to these medications, the following medications were prescribed for individual youth during the year: Buspar, Luvox, Tenex, Haldol, Benadryl, LiCo3, Inderal, Triafon, Cogentin, Prozac, Neurontin, Lactaid, Celexa, Thioridazine, and Tagrate)

[12]Today, they are given a 10-day supply of medication.

[13]Data were obtained by reviewing the master file and by interviewing Encanto staff, Adobe Mountain School medical staff, parents, parole officers, and medical providers in the community. We were unable to review medical records, where all mental health information was maintained for Encanto and AMS. All information was obtained from probation records, Encanto staff, and community providers.

[14]Disorders usually were first diagnosed in infancy, childhood, or adolescence (excluding personality disorders and mental retardation), including delirium, dementia, substance-related disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, mood disorders, adjustment disorders, and other conditions that may be a focus of clinical attention.

APPENDIX